



All-in-One Ecosystem





Registered by QCB

GULF



TIMES



0 668039 136499

THURSDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13768

June 11, 2026
Dhul-Hijjah 25, 1447 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in
QATAR
since 1978

Travel connected
with **Call+**

Enjoy **unlimited** calls with Call+ on
Passport pack to anywhere in the world.
Free with **Vodafone Passport**.



▶ Activate exclusively via MyVodafone App
T&Cs apply.



vodafone



أوريكس
ORyx POLYDEX

Durable waterproofing-
performance for roof protection

شركة مساهمة القطاع الخاص
NATIONAL PAINTS FACTORIES CO., Ltd. - Qatar
44601602/3



THE
PERFECT
GIFT?

THE ONE THEY CHOOSE



فاميلير
Family

كاس العالم مع العائلة
WORLD CUP With Family

PROMOTION PERIOD: 10/18/2025 - 25/06/2026



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR OFFERS

Ready to
GUAC
AND ROLL?

Only on
talabat



6THSTREET.COM

1200+
Top Fashion Brands

DELIVERY IN
90
MINUTES



SCAN TO SHOP

Gulf states have intercepted over 7,000 Iranian missiles, drones

Gulf states have intercepted more than 7,000 Iranian ballistic missiles and drones, the GCC's top official said, condemning fresh strikes on Bahrain and Kuwait as a flagrant breach of sovereignty and a grave violation of international law. GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi said the bloc's member states had been subjected to sinful Iranian attacks with ballistic missiles and drones targeting infrastructure and vital civilian facilities, the latest being terrorist Iranian strikes on Bahrain and Kuwait yesterday morning, in a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Council states and the principles of good-neighbourliness, and a grave breach of international law, international humanitarian law and the United Nations (UN) Charter. Addressing the 167th meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council in Manama yesterday, Albudaiwi commended the efficiency and readiness of the armed forces of the GCC states, which professionally and capably intercepted more than 7,000 ballistic missiles and drones launched by Iran towards the GCC states, contributing to neutralising the threat and protecting lives, facilities and vital assets. Despite the gravity of these attacks, the GCC states chose restraint and wisdom, out of keenness to avoid sliding into cycles of escalation with unforeseeable consequences, he said. **(QNA)**

GCC Ministerial meeting in Manama



Delegates pose for a family photo during the 167th meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council in Manama, Bahrain, yesterday. **(Reuters)**

Cabinet approves national local content strategy, metrology law

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting yesterday at the Amiri Diwan. Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi disclosed that at the outset the Cabinet renewed Qatar's condemnation of the Iranian attacks carried out yesterday against Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan, considering them a flagrant violation of these countries' sovereignty, a clear breach of interna-

tional law and a serious threat to regional security and stability, and expressed Qatar's full solidarity with the three countries and support for all measures they take to safeguard their sovereignty and security. During the session, the Cabinet noted the Shura Council's approval of a draft law on metrology, prepared to replace Law No. (21) of 1972 on the Unification and Determination of Measures, Scales and Weights. The draft aims to modernise the regulatory framework governing metrology, keep pace with rapid developments in the field, identify the entities responsible for measurement and calibration approval, provide appropriate consumer protection and ensure fair competition.

The Cabinet also approved the General Policy and Strategy for National Local Content, prepared by the Ministry of Finance in co-ordination with the National Planning Council, in implementation of Cabinet Decision No. (11) of 2025 on the establishment of the Ministerial Committee for National Local Content. The policy and strategy aim to establish an integrated national framework for promoting national local content in government procurement, creating the highest possible level of sustainable local value, and encouraging private-sector investment locally by providing new investment opportunities for local entrepreneurs and attracting international investors. **To Page 8**

Qatar pivots to private sector for food security

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Qatar is moving away from its traditional reliance on government-to-government import agreements toward a private sector-driven model for food security, an official of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has said. Abdullah Zeini Jefri, IFC's division director for the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Countries, told *Gulf Times* the shift is both deliberate and necessary for the country's longer-term development ambitions. "For Qatar's Vision 2030 to achieve its full potential, it has to rely on the growth of the private

sector. We're identifying through an evidence-based roadmap the opportunities for the private sector to help secure a more resilient food security for Qatar, while also identifying and creating commercially successful investment opportunities," he said. Jefri said the advantage of bringing private capital into food security is that it serves multiple objectives simultaneously, rather than treating security and profit as competing goals. "You achieve your objectives of securing food security, but at the same time you create commercially successful investment opportunities, you create jobs, and you diversify your supply chains," he noted. Asked whether Qatar's private



Abdullah Zeini Jefri, IFC's division director for the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Countries. **PICTURE:** Peter Alagos

sector has the capacity to take on that role, Jefri said it does, adding that "there is room for further growth."

Justice goes public: Trade Court opens up judicial rulings

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

In the unhurried rhythm of a system that prefers to be seen, Qatar's Investment and Trade Court has thrown open a window onto its own work. Under the banner "Justice with Greater Transparency," the Court has launched the "Code of Judicial Rulings" – a dedicated digital archive of commercial judgments that promises to let the curious, the scholarly and the simply interested read the law as the bench writes it. The move arrives as part of the second-phase strategy of the National Initiative for the Development of Justice Systems, steered by the Supreme Judiciary Council, and sits within the broader Rule of Law Enhancement Initiative – an effort whose stated ambition is to

lift the level of transparency and deepen public confidence in the courts. At its heart, the Code is a specialised digital platform that publishes the Court's rulings through a modern, integrated mechanism. It will live on the Investment and Trade Court's website and, in parallel, within the Council's Judicial Encyclopedia, widening the reach of judicial knowledge and the circle of those who may draw upon it. What sets the venture apart is its quiet automation. The Court was at pains to stress that the Code refreshes itself through digital procedures wired directly into the litigation system, so that rulings appear at regular intervals under an approved mechanism. The result, it says, is judgment delivered to the reader more swiftly and more accurately – and the principles of openness served not as slogan but as routine. **To Page 8**



Qatar condemns Iranian attacks

Qatar has strongly condemned the Iranian attacks on Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considered the attacks a blatant violation of the sovereignty of these countries and a flagrant breach of international law. The ministry stressed the need to spare the region the repercussions of these unjustified attacks and to work towards de-escalation in order to restore regional and international security and stability. It also reiterated Qatar's full solidarity with Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan, and its support for all measures they take to preserve their sovereignty and security. **(QNA)**

It's back to Square One in US-Iran war

Reuters
Washington

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said the United States was readying a second day of attacks on Iran, citing President Trump's pledge earlier to "hit them hard again today." The strikes, Hegseth said, are intended to get Tehran to make peace on terms agreeable to Trump, who said earlier in the day that Iran was taking "too long to negotiate." "If we need to negotiate with bombs, we'll negotiate with bombs," Hegseth told reporters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. "And we're very good at it.



President Donald Trump speaks at the White House yesterday. **(Reuters)**

Nobody better in the world." Earlier President Donald Trump threatened further escalation

following one of the most significant exchanges of hostilities in two months. "We're going to be attacking them, attacking them very hard," Trump told reporters at the White House, saying the strikes were coming. The US and Iran have traded fire several times since a tentative ceasefire took hold in early April, even as negotiators have sought an end to the three-month-old war. Trump has repeatedly said a deal is close, though there has been no sign of a breakthrough. In the latest such incident, the US military targeted air defenses and radar sites around the Strait of Hormuz after a US attack

helicopter was downed near the strategic waterway. Iran responded with missile and drone attacks on US bases in Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain. A US official said there was no significant damage. Iran said the US had violated international law by striking reservoirs that supplied drinking water to 10 villages. "This is not collateral damage – it is a calculated war crime and a flagrant violation of human rights," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghei said. Trump, who has threatened before to destroy Iran's civilian infrastructure, did not say whether the coming strikes would target power plants and bridges.

US military 'secretly helped 100mn barrels of oil through Hormuz'

President Donald Trump said yesterday that the US military secretly helped 100mn barrels of oil pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran largely closed in response to US and Israeli attacks. "Last month, I directed our Great U.S. Military to execute a secret mission to support Oil Tankers and other Commercial Ships through the Strait of Hormuz," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform, claiming the US "controls" the waterway. "Today, I am pleased to announce

that this effort has resulted in more than 100 MILLION Barrels of Oil making its way through the Strait, and into the Open Market," he said, adding that more than 200 commercial ships had gone through. The United States began a military operation – dubbed Project Freedom – to escort ships through the strait in early May, but scrapped it after just a day in what Trump described as a bid to end the Middle East war, which Washington and Israel launched on February 28.



امسح الرمز لمعرفة آخر العروض
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR LATEST
PROMOTION CATALOGUE
VIEW NOW

توصيل من الهايبرماركت في دقائق
HYPERMARKET
DELIVERED

في دقائق
in MINUTES



LuLu Hypermarket
Hypermarket in Minutes
Download on the
App Store
GET IT ON
Google Play



Promotion valid from 11.06.2026 to 13.06.2026. Bulk purchase not allowed.

جديد في المتجر
NEW IN-STORE

42.50

ترو فرو - فواكه مجمدة طبيعية مغطاة بالشوكولاتة ملوكة، توت العليق / الفراولة التوت الأزرق / ٢٢٧ جم / عبوة واحدة
Tru Fru Nature's Frozen Raspberries/ Strawberry/ Blueberries with Chocolate Asstd 227gm x 1pc

جديد في المتجر
NEW IN-STORE

32.50

ماي، موتشي - آيس كريم فاخر بنكهة شوكولاتة دبي / ٢١٠ جم
My Mochi Premium Ice Cream Dubai Chocolate Style 210gm

9.50

بامبرد رغوطة / كريم استحمام منوع ١ لتر / ١ حبة
Pampered Love Bath Asstd 1Ltr x 1pc

97.00

سرايفي مرطب شفاف واقي شمس بعامل حماية ٣٠ لوجه والجسم ٨٩ مل
CeraVe AM Facial Moisturizing Lotion with Sunscreen 89ml

جديد
1# هونيف
قم العالم

30.00

تايد مسحوق غسيل منوع ٥ كيلو
Tide Washing Powder Asstd 5kg

10.00

ذا بيري كومباني - مشروب التوت الأزرق / ١ لتر
The Berry Company Blueberry Juice Drink 1Ltr

20.00

فستق أمريكي مملح / بالليمون / سادة ٤٠٠ جم
USA Pistachio Salted/ Lemon/Plain 400gm

10.00

كرواسان صغير بالزبدة ١ قطع
All Butter Mini Croissant 10pcs

32.75

كباب دجاج بالتوم والزبدة ١ كجم
Chicken Garlic & Butter Kebab 1kg

49.50

سمك القاروص نزي ١ كجم
Sea Bass Turkey 1 kg

10.75

جوليت تفاح عضوي فرنسي / ١ كجم
Organic Apple Juliet France 1kg

17.00

ريميدي - مشروب كومبوتشا منوع / ٣٣٠ مل
Remedy Kombucha Drink Asstd 330ml x 1pc

24.50

موريسونز - قهوة جولد روست / ٢٠٠ جم
Morrisons Gold Roast Coffee 200gm

20.00

جين وينسليديل إنجليزي / ٥٠٠ جم
English Wensleydale Cheese 500gm

18.00

أصابع آيس كريم كيت كات/أوريو / ١٠٠ مل (١٠٥)
KitKat/Oreo/ Mini Ice Cream Stick 6's X 1pkt

36.75

مفروم لحم بقري برازيلي / ١ كجم
Beef Mince Brazil 1kg

36.75

مانجو أفوكادو إندونيسي (مشحون جوا) / ١ كجم
Mango Avocado Indonesia 1kg

5 KG.

15.75

خريف أرز بسمتي ٥ كيلو
Kharif Basmati Rice 5kg

65.00

جين مانشيغو إسباني نصف ممتق - ٩٠٠ جم
Spain Manchego Semi-Cured CDC 500gm

9.50

الصافي دانون - دانيت شوكولاتة/فانيليا / ٩٠٠ جم (١٠٥)
Safi Danone Danette Chocolate/Vanilla 90gm 5+1, 1pkt

54.75

فخذ خروف أسترالي بالعظم ١ كجم
Lamb Leg Bone in Australia 1kg

7.75

جزر أسترالي / ١ كجم
Carrot Australia 1kg

Carrefour كارفور

هذه العروض متوفرة فقط في كارفور هايبر ماركيتس قطر (سيتي سنتر، فيلاجيو، لاند مارك، قطر مول و [إزدان الوكرة])

11-12-13 of June 2026

Offers are only available in Carrefour Hypermarkets (City Center, Villaggio, Landmark, Mall of Qatar & Ezdan Al Wakrah)

٢٠٢٦-١٢-١١ يونيو



كارفور
Carrefour
PRESENTS

SUMMER PACKED WITH ACTION

Free delivery in **60** mins
Minimum order of 99 QAR.

Download the Carrefour App now

NOW PLAYING

INSTORE ONLINE

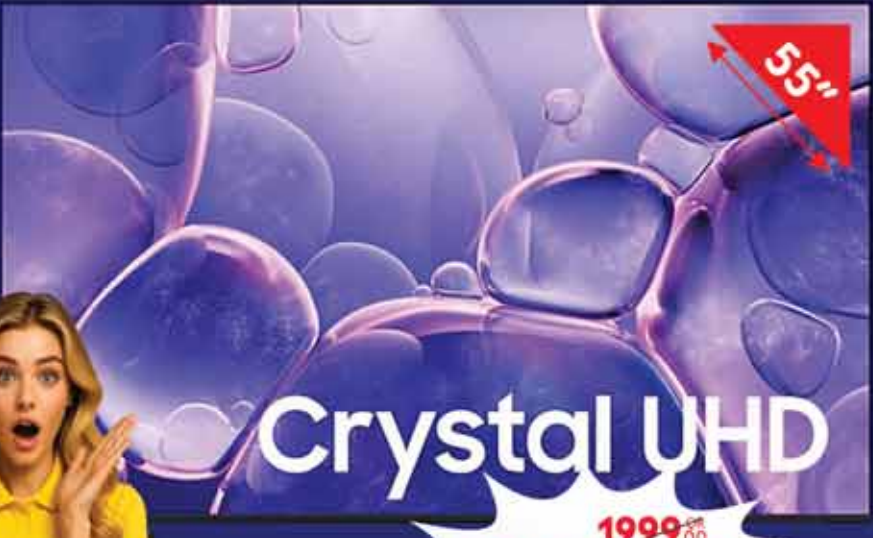
 Per Pack Pineapple, Kenya 19.75 QAR	 Per Pack Blackberry 125g, Morocco 9.75 QAR	 Per Pack Raspberry 125g, Morocco 11.75 QAR	 Per KG Peach round, Jordan 12.75 QAR
 Per PC Donut 1.50 QAR	 Per KG Shrimps 60/40, Saudi 23.75 QAR	 Per KG Peach round, Jordan 12.75 QAR	 Per KG Peach round, Jordan 12.75 QAR



 Per KG Watermelon, Jordan 3.00 QAR	 Per Pack Blueberry 125g, Morocco 7.50 QAR
---	--

 14.75 QAR زيت دوار الشمس زين 1.8 لتر Zain Pure Sunflower Oil 1.8ltr	 20.75 QAR أرز لوتس ياسمين 5 كجم Lotus Jasmine Rice 5kg
---	--

 29.75 QAR شراب تانج متنوع 2 كجم Tang Tub 2kg Assorted	 10.75 QAR معجون أسنان كولجيت عادي 75 مل x4 Colgate Toothpaste Regular 75ml x4
---	---



Crystal UHD

1999.00 QAR

1199.00 QAR

299.75 QAR

4

تلفاز سامسونج 55 بوصة
SAMSUNG UHD TV 55" UA55U8000FUXZN

 12.75 QAR بطانية 150x200 سم Fleece/ flannel blanket 150cm x 200cm assorted	 22.75 QAR بنطال للرجال Men cargo jogger
---	---

 149.00 QAR حقبة سفر متنوعة American tourister phoenix hard trolley assorted	 219.00 QAR هوم واي طقم طبخ متنوع Homeway granite cookware set assorted
--	--



لا تفوت الفرصة!
احصل على أفضل العروض على هاتفك

Don't miss out!
Get the best deals on your phone

Scan to subscribe



Amir, Deputy Amir send cables of congratulations to president of Portugal

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to President of the Portuguese Republic Antonio Jose Seguro on the occasion of his country's National Day. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani also sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to President of the Portuguese Republic Antonio Jose Seguro on the occasion of his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic Luis Montenegro on the occasion of his country's National Day. **(QNA)**



MoI takes part in CMC meeting

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Interior (MoI), represented by the General Directorate of Traffic, took part in the Central Municipal Council (CMC) meeting dedicated to discussing traffic plans and measures intended to enhance traffic flow and reduce congestion. The General Directorate of Traffic was represented at the meeting by Director General of Traffic Brig

Jabor Ali al-Kubaisi, and Assistant Director General Col Mohammed bin Jassim al-Thani, along with a number of department directors from the General Directorate. The meeting went over the efforts of the General Directorate of Traffic to develop the traffic system and improve traffic flow, in addition to the foremost initiatives and measures taken to reduce congestion through smart systems, field studies, and co-ordination with the relevant authorities.

Shura Council participates in Arab IPU Executive Committee meeting

QNA
Doha

The Shura Council participated yesterday in the 42nd session of the Executive Committee of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, held via videoconference in preparation for the 39th conference of the union, scheduled to take place virtually today. The council was represented at the meeting by Sultan bin Hassan al-Dosari, a member of the Shura Council and member of the union's Executive Committee, in the presence of HE Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti, Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council, Member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and Vice-President of the Committee representing the Arab Geopolitical Group.



Participants reviewed reports from specialised committees and discussed a range of organisational, administrative, and financial matters related to the work of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and the development of its mechanisms, in addition to issues of common interest in Arab parliamentary affairs. In a related context, Amina bint Youssef al-Jaidah, a member of the Shura Council, took part in a meeting of the Palestine Commit-

tee of the union, which was also held virtually. The meeting discussed developments in the Palestinian cause and ways to enhance Arab parliamentary co-ordination and co-operation in support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as well as efforts to unify parliamentary positions in regional and international forums in support of the Palestinian cause and broader objectives of joint Arab parliamentary action.

Qatar participates in UN COSP to disability rights convention

QNA
New York

The State of Qatar participated in the 19th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), held at UN headquarters in New York under the theme, "CRPD at 20 – Celebrating and consolidating achievements and shaping the next phase of implementation in a changing world." HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, Khalifa bin Issa al-Kubaisi, headed Qatar's delegation to the conference's general debate, which reviewed national efforts and experiences aimed at promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their inclusion and effective participation across all areas of life. Al-Kubaisi said Qatar takes



pride in being among the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, noting that a supportive environment and the guidance of the country's wise leadership have helped launch pioneering measures and initiatives to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their full and effective participation in society through an integrated framework of legislation and policies. He said Qatar's hosting of the Fourth Global Disability Summit in Doha in 2028, in co-operation with the International Disability Alliance, represents

an important step reflecting the country's commitment to building inclusive societies and empowering persons with disabilities, in line with its policy of international co-operation and partnership. Al-Kubaisi reviewed key steps taken by Qatar in recent years to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, noting that 2025 marked an important milestone with the launch of the Ministry of Social Development and Family's National Strategy 2025-2030, under the slogan "From Care to Empowerment," aimed at building an inclusive society and empowering

persons with disabilities. He added that Law No. 22 of 2025 on Persons with Disabilities represents a landmark in Qatar's efforts to promote, protect and realise the rights of persons with disabilities. Al-Kubaisi also noted that Qatar was honoured to host the Second World Summit for Social Development last year, which provided a key opportunity to demonstrate global solidarity and intensify efforts to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. He added that the Doha Political Declaration underscores the importance of building inclusive societies that enable full and equal participation for all, including persons with disabilities. He said empowering persons with disabilities is a genuine investment in building a more just and inclusive future, reaffirming Qatar's steadfast commitment to promoting and protecting their rights and enabling their full and effective participation in society.

MoPH launches Food Establishments Guide

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has launched the Food Establishments Guide for Food Recall Requirements, a comprehensive national reference aimed at standardising and enhancing procedures for recalling unsafe or non-compliant food products from the local market, thereby protecting consumer health and reducing food-related risks. The launch of the guide

comes as part of the MoPH's efforts to enhance the food safety system in the State of Qatar, in line with internationally recognised best practices and standards in the field of food safety. The guide clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders across the food chain, including importers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers. It also establishes effective

mechanisms for traceability, product recovery, communication and food incident management, contributing to faster response and more efficient management of potential food safety risks. The guide further emphasises the importance of food establishments implementing effective recall and recovery plans, applying robust traceability systems, and conducting regular reviews and test-

ing exercises to verify the readiness and effectiveness of these plans, in line with international best practices in food safety. The event featured a number of awareness and discussion sessions addressing key challenges associated with foodborne diseases and ways to prevent them, in addition to showcasing the latest practices and experiences in food control and food safety. **(QNA)**

Ministry holds awareness session for workers on occupational safety

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Municipality, represented by the General Cleanliness Department, yesterday organised an awareness programme to supercharge the culture of occupational safety for workers and drivers. The two-day consecutive programme features the participation of over 600 workers and drivers hailing from a variety of workplaces. It intends to ensure workers adhere to the preventive requirements, as well as furnish them with the essential guidelines to handle any potential risks while they are operating onsite. These guidelines, the Ministry asserted, would help prevent accidents and traumas and optimise workplace environments. Director of the General Clean-



liness Department at the Ministry of Municipality, Muqbil Madhour al-Shammari, said the programme embodies the foremost attention of the department to promote the culture of occupational safety in workplaces, stemming from the fact that workers' safety is a overriding priority and a substantial component in raising performance efficiency and service quality. The department significantly

prioritises building the capacities of those workers and drivers through constant awareness and training programmes in collaboration with the relevant authorities, al-Shammari added. He suggested that these programmes would help enhance adherence to safety measures and risk reduction, as well as promote the public sanitisation system and achieve the highest levels of quality and sustainability.



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/A/SUP/7671/26, B0D MATERIAL AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF GASKETS	10/06/2026 to 12/07/2026	0	25,000	12/07/2026

Scope of Work:
MATERIAL AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF GASKETS FOR 5 YEARS (+ 2 YEARS OPTIONAL) WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for 270 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:
ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) are advised to refer to the tender documentation and In-Country Value (ICV) Digital Portal: - <https://icv.qa/en-US/> for details of ICV compliance that may be applicable.

Qatar Airways returns to Philadelphia with daily flights

Qatar Airways has announced the resumption of daily flights between its Doha home base and Philadelphia (PHL), effective 1 August 2026. The reinstated service expands the airline's North American network to 14 destinations, further strengthening its connectivity for travellers across the region. The resumption of flights reflects the airline's deep commitment to the US market and will provide seamless connections to destinations across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East via its award-winning hub, Hamad International Airport. In the US, the resumed flights will provide enhanced onward connectivity through Qatar Airways' oneworld partner, American Airlines. Since launching its inaugural US service to New York in 2007, Qatar Airways has steadily expanded its presence across North America, offering passengers increased flexibility, premium travel experiences, and seamless connectivity to more than 160 destinations worldwide. Qatar Airways will operate flights to the following North American destinations this summer: Atlanta (ATL), Boston (BOS), Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW), Houston (IAH), Los Angeles (LAX), Miami (MIA), Montreal (YUL), New York (JFK), San Francisco (SFO), Seattle (SEA), Toronto (YYZ), and Washington DC. (IAD). **(QNA)**



Tender Announcement

The Investment Promotion Agency Qatar ("Invest Qatar") would like to invite competent Service Providers for the following open Tender:

Subject: Invest Qatar is seeking the services of a qualified Tier 1 Management Consultancy firm to provide services on Developing **Cluster Activation plans** including the analysis, prioritization, and implementation planning of strategic cluster initiatives aligned with Invest Qatar's mandate and national economic priorities.

Tender No.	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
RFP-2026-I-0036-M	3,000.00	150,000.00	19-July-2026

In accordance with the following conditions:

- The Tender Documents will be available from **15 June 2026 to 22 June 2026**.
- The Tender Documents will be released electronically only after the submission of the following requirements to ipa.tenders@invest.qa:
 - Deposit slip for the tender fee mentioned above and stamped by Commercial Bank
 - Copy of the Authorisation Letter signed by the authorised person from the company
 - Copy of the Commercial Registration (CR)
 - Copy of the Business License and Computer ID
- The non-refundable tender fee shall be deposited to:

Beneficiary Account Name:	Investment Promotion Agency LLC
Bank Name:	The Commercial Bank (P.S.Q.C)
Bank account number:	4010-065065-201
IBAN	QA63CBA000000004010065065201

- The Tender Bond must be valid for 120 days from the closing date. The original copy of the Tender Bond must be submitted to the Invest Qatar Procurement Department. Bids submitted without a Tender Bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 120 days from the closing date and should be submitted in two (2) separate files; Technical and Commercial.
- Invest Qatar's Tendering terms and condition apply.

For further information or inquiry, please send your queries to ipa.tenders@invest.qa

Host of events organised to mark International Archives Week 2026

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

In support of its efforts to preserve national memory, the National Archives of Qatar celebrates International Archives Week 2026, held from June 8 to 12, under the theme “Archives for Justice: Rights, Memory, and the Future.”

This celebration underscores the importance of documents and archives in preserving national memory, safeguarding rights, and promoting knowledge for future generations. International Archives Week is an international event highlighting the vital role of records and documents in protecting human memory and supporting justice and transparency. International Archives Day is observed annually on June 9.

As part of its participation in this event, the National Archives



The National Archives of Qatar building

of Qatar, in co-operation with the Arab Museum of Modern Art (Mathaf), organised a workshop titled “The Importance of the Ottoman Archives in Documenting

Qatar’s History.” The workshop showcased a collection of historical documents preserved in the Ottoman archives, highlighting their importance as sources for docu-

menting the history of the country and the Arabian Gulf region during various historical periods.

The workshop emphasised the scientific and historical value of the Ottoman documents and the information they contain, reflecting the political, social, and economic conditions of the region. It also introduced the National Archives of Qatar’s efforts in collecting, acquiring, preserving, and making historical documents available to researchers and those interested, thus contributing to the support of historical studies and the enhancement of national knowledge.

This event is part of a series of cultural and awareness programmes organised by the Archives to promote documentary culture and educate the community about the importance of archives and their role in building historical knowledge and strengthening national identity.



The skyline of Downtown Seattle in Washington at twilight with Mount Rainier in the background.

US cities ready to embrace FIFA World Cup fever

As many as 10mn visitors will head to 11 US cities this summer, helping turn the FIFA World Cup 2026 into the largest sporting event in history. While US host cities like Los Angeles, Miami, New York and San Francisco are world-famous, lesser-known US cities are primed to host soccer fans. In Kansas City, Missouri, for instance, Café Corazón owner Dulcinea Herrera says that people underestimate the Midwestern city of 500,000. Herrera and other local business owners are preparing for 650,000 visitors for FIFA World Cup 2026.

White House World Cup Task Force executive director Andrew Giuliani calls it “a tremendous privilege” to host the FIFA World Cup 2026 during the year the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, and says the federal government is working with host cities to ensure a safe and welcoming tournament.

“Hosting the world during this historic year ... gives us a chance to show the very best of America – our hospitality and our innovation – while also showcasing the America spirit of which we’re so proud of,” Giuliani said.

Atlanta, famous for peaches, pecans and Southern hospitality, the Georgia state capital is a cultural and economic hub of the South. It boasts the country’s busiest airport and was home to famed Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Atlanta is home to numerous industries, including aerospace and financial technologies, as well as soft drink giant Coca-Cola.

The Midwestern city called Kansas City straddles parts of two US states – Kansas and Missouri – and is known as the

“City of Fountains,” as it has more in use than any other US city. Its famed Power & Light District boasts eight blocks of restaurants where visitors can sample the famous barbecue.

New York, famous for skyscrapers, Broadway theatre and the lights of Times Square will host the FIFA World Cup 2026 finals at a stadium in neighbouring New Jersey. New York offers museums, libraries, walks in Central Park and the iconic Statue of Liberty.

Known for the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco is a city of steep hills, scaled by streetcars and packed with colorful row houses. It’s the northern hub of California’s Silicon Valley, a centre of technological innovation. San Francisco will be ready to host six FIFA World Cup 2026 matches. Qatar will play their inaugural match at San Francisco Bay Area Stadium in Santa Clara, and their base training centre is located in Santa Barbara.

Known for a drizzly climate, a pedestrian-friendly downtown and a thriving entrepreneurial spirit, Seattle will offer international visitors the chance to sample seafood at Pike’s Place Market and take in a view of the entire city from the Space Needle. Seattle’s pioneering companies include airplane manufacturer Boeing, software developer Microsoft, and Starbucks, which operates in 85 countries.

The city, where the US National Team will make an early-round appearance, plans nine “fan zones” for the FIFA World Cup 2026, each offering big screens, food and live entertainment. Qatar will play their final group stage match at Lumen Field in Seattle.

DFC to transform into Qatar’s go-to football fan destination

Doha Festival City, is set to launch “Hala Bel Fans,” a fully immersive Football Fan Zones Activation running from today to July 19. Inspired by the world’s most anticipated football tournament, the 39-day experience will transform multiple locations across the mall into interactive destinations for football fans, families, gamers, and visitors of all ages, with all activities available free of charge.

The Football Fan Zones Activation will span multiple locations across Doha Festival City. At the North Food Court, visitors will be able to gather for live screenings throughout the tournament, creating a shared viewing experience for fans and families.

The Hero Interactive Zone reflects the growing trend of phygital entertainment, where physical activity and digital technology come together to create more immersive fan experiences. Through innovations such as the projection-based



multiball football experience, VR football challenges, and competitive gaming on PS5 Pro and Nintendo Switch, visitors can engage with football in dynamic new ways that blend sport, technology, and

real-time interaction.

Families and younger fans can experience the football sensation beyond the pitch at the Kids Play Zone on the first floor, through creative activities such as face

painting, LEGO football builds, toy play experiences, and family-friendly entertainment. Extending throughout the mall corridors, the Interactive Football Games Zone will feature six skill-based challenges, including Foot Pool, Foot Golf, Foot Bowling, Foot Power Ramp, Target Wall, and the exciting Header Challenge, in an engaging atmosphere.

Bringing the spirit of the game beyond the screen, Doha Festival City will present a lively entertainment programme under its “Hala Bel Fans” campaign. Visitors can explore jersey displays representing participating nations and football collectibles, while enjoying multiple live shows taking place from Wednesday to Saturday. On weekends, roaming mascot parades will bring additional excitement to the destination, accompanied by drummers, stilt walkers, and other interactive performers, creating a vibrant atmosphere for fans and families alike.

Americana Restaurants Opens First carpo Store in Qatar



Americana Restaurants International Plc (“Americana Restaurants”), the largest out-of-home dining and quick service restaurant operator in the Middle East & North Africa (“MENA”) and Kazakhstan, and carpo, the international luxury brand celebrated for its artisanal Greek heritage, announced the opening of the first carpo store in Qatar.

The new store, located at Vio Dome, the luxury area near Gate 6 of Villaggio Mall, offers guests the full carpo experience, from its celebrated range of nuts, coffee and chocolates to curated gifting options, delivered through the brand’s distinctive hospitality experience.

The opening marks Americana Restaurants’ entry into the premium food retail segment under its exclusive partnership with carpo. Americana Restaurants holds the exclusive rights to develop and operate carpo stores in Qatar and Kuwait, with further expansion planned across Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Mohamed Alabbar, Chairman of the Board, commented: “Following its success in the UAE, carpo’s launch in Qatar marks an exciting step in its regional growth journey. Renowned for its freshly roasted nuts, handcrafted chocolates, and premium coffees, carpo brings a distinctive blend of quality and craftsmanship that aligns perfectly with Qatar’s discerning consumers. Supported by Americana’s scale and deep regional expertise, we are confident carpo will become a destination brand in the market.”



Kostas Kontopoulos, Founder & CEO, carpo, commented: “Every new carpo destination represents far more than a new location. It is an opportunity to share the values that have guided us since day one: genuine hospitality, uncompromising quality, and meaningful human connection. We are particularly excited about Doha, a city that embraces excellence and appreciates authentic experiences. Through our partnership with Americana Restaurants, we are proud to introduce the carpo experience to Qatar and look forward to becoming part of our guests’ everyday rituals and special moments.”

The opening in Doha strengthens the brand’s presence in the Middle East and underscores Americana Restaurants’ commitment to introducing world class concepts across the region.

21st Qatar Talks 2026 Fully Digital



Gulf Times has been named the Official Media Partner for the 21st edition of Qatar Talks, Qatar’s longest-running English-language public speaking championship, as the event prepares to enter a new era with a fully digital, automated and paperless contest platform.

The 2026 edition will culminate in a live Grand Finale at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha, on Friday, 13 November 2026, where finalists will compete on stage for the title of four Champion Speakers in four contests. The event will also be broadcast globally, extending the championship’s reach beyond the venue and showcasing Qatar’s speaking talent to a wider audience.

Founded in 2005 by MI Farid, a longstanding Qatar resident, social activist and advocate of communication and leadership development, Qatar Talks was created to help individuals discover their voice, build confidence and inspire others. Over the past two decades, it has grown into one of Qatar’s most respected community platforms, benefiting more than 2,000 participants.

For the 2026 edition, contestants will compete in four categories. The Adult Division will feature Inspirational Speaking and Humorous Speaking, while the Youth Division will feature Inspirational Speaking and Tall Tales Speaking.

The championship’s complete digital transformation is being spearheaded by Chief Coordinator Ameerudeen Moulana, a technology professional & entrepreneur with over four decades of experience in enterprise systems and digital innovation. The end-to-end online platform is being developed and sponsored by a Qatar-based technology company, reflecting the country’s growing ability to deliver homegrown digital solutions that meet international standards.

Unlike previous editions, in which schools nominated their representatives to youth participation, a major development this year is the opening to eligible students across Qatar through the

new online platform. The digital model allows more students to take part directly, giving them greater opportunities to develop public speaking, creativity, confidence, and leadership skills.

Through the new platform, the entire contest process, from registration and video submissions to judging, scoring and result management, will be handled digitally. Contestants will submit their qualifying speeches through a secure online portal. At the same time, independent human judging will continue to determine the results at every stage.

The competition is expected to attract several hundred contestants across youth and adult categories. Participants will progress through Pre-Qualifier and Semi-Final rounds before selected finalists appear at the Grand Finale. The event will also include digital audience engagement, electronic access management, real-time audience participation and other technology-enabled features designed to enhance the experience for contestants, sponsors and spectators.

As Official Media Partner, Gulf Times will support the championship by highlighting its journey, sharing contestant stories and bringing the excitement of the event to readers across Qatar. The partnership reflects Gulf Times’ continued commitment to supporting educational, cultural and community initiatives that promote personal development and lifelong learning.

The organisers expressed their appreciation for Gulf Times’ longstanding support, noting that the newspaper has played an important role in documenting Qatar Talks’ growth and achievements over the years.

As Qatar Talks enters its third decade, the 21st edition stands as a celebration of its legacy and a confident step into the future, combining technology, talent and opportunity to empower voices, build confidence and nurture future leaders. The official announcement of the Contest details is expected in a couple of weeks.



Al-Muraikhi partakes in Bahraini Crown Prince's meeting with GCC delegations



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi participated in a meeting between Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifah and Their Highnesses and Excellencies the heads of delegations participating in the 167th ministerial council meeting of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the third joint ministerial meeting of the GCC-Canada Strategic Dialogue. The Bahraini Crown Prince expressed his hope that the meetings would achieve their desired objectives and serve as a catalyst for greater co-operation among the GCC states, thus fulfilling their shared aspirations. **(QNA)**



Dr Bechir Naffeti, Dr Laith Abu-Raddad, and Dr Houssein Ayoub.

New study finds HSV-1 vaccine could avert millions of infections

Researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) and Qatar University (QU) have projected that a future herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) vaccine could substantially reduce oral and genital HSV-1 infections and avert tens of millions of infections over coming decades.

The study, titled “Projected Public Health Benefits of a Hypothetical HSV-1 Vaccine in the United States: A Mathematical Modeling Analysis,” was published in the journal Science Advances and provides the first quantitative assessment of the population-level impact of an HSV-1 vaccine in any population.

HSV-1 is one of the world's most common viral infections. Traditionally associated with oral herpes, the virus is increasingly becoming a major cause of genital herpes in high-income countries, including the US.

Using a sophisticated age-structured mathematical model calibrated to four decades of nationally representative US data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, the researchers evaluated multiple vaccination strategies beginning in 2030, including infant vaccination, adolescent catch-up vaccination, and booster programmes, under a range of plausible vaccine characteristics reflecting the current progress

and momentum in HSV vaccine development.

The findings indicate that even a moderately effective vaccine could deliver major public health benefits in the US. Under one modelled scenario assuming 70% vaccine efficacy and lifelong protection, infant vaccination alone reduced oral HSV-1 incidence by nearly 50% and genital HSV-1 incidence by nearly 60% by 2075, while averting approximately 28.5mn infections cumulatively. Adding adolescent catch-up vaccination further amplified the projected impact, averting approximately 41.8mn infections by 2075.

A key finding of the study was that the duration of vaccine-induced protection strongly shaped the long-term public health impact. Vaccines providing lifelong protection produced approximately three times greater impact than vaccines with protection lasting an average of 15 years. The study also showed that adolescent catch-up vaccination could accelerate population-level benefits, especially for preventing genital HSV-1 herpes among adolescents and young adults.

Dr Bechir Naffeti, first author of the study and postdoctoral researcher in the Mathematics Programme, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College

of Arts and Sciences at QU, said: “This study shows that HSV-1 vaccination could become a powerful prevention tool, not only by reducing oral infection but also by curbing the growing burden of genital HSV-1 herpes among adolescents and young adults. The projected benefits underscore the importance of advancing vaccine candidates that can provide durable protection.”

Dr Houssein Ayoub, co-lead author of the study and associate professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences at QU, said: “This study highlights the value of sophisticated quantitative assessments of vaccination impact in guiding vaccine development and public health planning. Our results indicate that durable protection, adolescent catch-up vaccination, and timely implementation are critical to maximising the benefits of a future HSV-1 vaccine.”

Dr Laith Abu-Raddad, co-lead author of the study and professor of population health sciences at WCM-Q, said: “HSV infections remain a major public health challenge, yet prevention options are still very limited. This study presents a compelling case for accelerating HSV vaccine development to reduce the burden of multiple diseases caused by HSV infection.”

Minister meets Canada's FM



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met in Manama yesterday with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Anita Anand. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the joint ministerial meeting of the GCC-Canada Strategic Dialogue convened in Manama. Their discussions centred on the deepening and expansion of bilateral co-operation between the two nations, as well as the latest developments in the region, particularly the mediation efforts between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs expressed, during the meeting, the State of Qatar's full backing of the ongoing mediation efforts, broadening the horizons for addressing the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue, ultimately leading to an enduring accord that prevents renewed escalation. **(QNA)**

Qatar takes part in joint ministerial meeting of GCC-Canada Strategic Dialogue



The State of Qatar took part in the joint ministerial meeting of the GCC-Canada Strategic Dialogue in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain, yesterday. The delegation was led by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi. The meeting discussed the relationship between GCC nations and Canada, deepening co-operation in the economic and commercial domains and co-ordinating on matters of shared interest. The discussions addressed the evolving regional and international situation, as well as the ongoing developments and their consequences for the security and stability of the region. The meeting further emphasised the importance of ramping up international efforts to protect maritime lanes and ensure freedom of international navigation, in pursuit of safeguarding shared interests and strengthening regional and global stability. In addition, the meeting discussed the Iranian attacks on several countries in the region, along with the recent attacks on the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, expressing condemnation and denunciation of these assaults. **(QNA)**

Vodafone Qatar, U DST join hands for infrastructure intelligence hackathon

Vodafone Qatar collaborated with the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) to host an Infrastructure Intelligence Hackathon, a two-day event that brought together top students from engineering fields to tackle real-world challenges in smart energy, telecommunications, and artificial intelligence (AI).

The Hackathon featured ten teams of three to four students working under the theme “Infrastructure Intelligence: Smart Energy and Telecom Systems using AI and 5G.”

The event was designed to encourage innovation through the development of prototype-based solutions addressing key areas of future infrastructure, including smart energy systems and digital grids, telecommunications and 5G-enabled infrastructure, AI-driven optimisation systems, IoT and edge computing applications, and smart city and critical infrastructure monitoring.

Solutions were evaluated based on technical depth and engineering quality, innovation and AI integration, telecommunications relevance, practical impact, and presentation and communication effectiveness. Throughout the day, Vodafone Qatar engineers and UDST faculty provided



mentoring and technical guidance to participants before they presented their solutions to a live judging panel.

Prizes were awarded across five categories. Rashid al-Kaabi, Hamad al-Kuwari, and Ahmad Zaineldin secured First Place, while Michael Joshua Tenderso and Jose Luis Alfonso Sandoval took Second Place, and Mohamed Almejresi, Rayen Cherif, and Mohamed al-Baisoumy earned Third Place. The Best Innovation Award was presented to Seyede Hassan, Hafsa Chohan, and Fadi Mohamed, while Lama Alalaleq and Hiba Sulanki received the Best Industry Relevance Award.

Abdulhadi al-Sahli, head of Media Relations and CSR at Vodafone Qatar, commented, “We are proud to have partnered with UDST on this initiative, which reflects our shared focus on connecting innovation

with real-world application. The hackathon provided a valuable platform for students to apply their skills to practical challenges, and the quality of the solutions presented highlights the strong potential of local talent to contribute to Qatar's ongoing digital transformation.”

Dr Ali Lari, assistant professor in the College of Engineering and Technology at UDST, said: “We are pleased to collaborate with Vodafone Qatar through this hackathon, which reflects the University's applied education approach and the importance of bridging academic knowledge with real-world experience. This initiative provided students with a valuable opportunity to apply their skills, strengthen their critical-thinking abilities, and collaborate in multidisciplinary teams to address real-world challenges.”

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ABDUS SHAHID ASHID MIAH

holder of

BANGLADESH Passport No. EM0564457
QID No. 29105003765

hereby change my name

from

ABDUS SHAHID ASHID MIAH

to

SAHID MIAH ASID ALI

Any objection, please contact
**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

QU, Qatar Press Center sign co-operation agreement

QNA
Doha

Qatar University (QU) signed a joint co-operation agreement with Qatar Press Center (QPC) aimed at strengthening collaboration in the fields of media, academic and scientific research, training, and career development.

The agreement was signed by Prof Ibrahim al-Kaabi, Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs at QU, and Sadeq Mohammad Alammari, General Manager of the QPC, in the presence of officials from both institutions.

The agreement aims to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two parties in the areas of media, academic and scientific research, and career development. It also seeks to establish a sustainable framework for collaboration through the exchange of



expertise, knowledge, and resources, while supporting initiatives of mutual interest.

Furthermore, the agreement seeks to contribute to the preparation and development of distinguished Qatari

media professionals among QU students and graduates, equipping them with the practical skills and experience needed to work effectively across various media platforms and institutions.

Commenting on the agreement, Prof. Ibrahim Mohamed al-Kaabi, QU's Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs, said, “This agreement reflects our commitment to strengthening collaboration with leading national institutions to advance media education and professional training. Through this partnership, we aim to provide our students and graduates with valuable opportunities to engage with industry professionals, gain practical experience, and further bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice. Such initiatives contribute to preparing highly qualified national talent capable of supporting the continued development of Qatar's media sector.”

Sadeq Mohammad Alammari, Gen-

eral Manager of the QPC, emphasised that the agreement represents an important strategic step toward strengthening integration between academic and professional institutions in Qatar, contributing to the preparation of a new generation of media professionals who are academically and professionally equipped to keep pace with the rapid developments taking place in the media sector.

He stated, “We are proud to sign this agreement with Qatar University, the country's leading national academic institution. We firmly believe that building national media capabilities requires a genuine partnership between educational institutions and professional organisations. This agreement will create broad opportunities for collaboration in training, professional development, scientific research, and the exchange of expertise, ultimately contributing to the advancement of young media talents.”

Ceylon tea heritage celebrated at Sri Lankan diplomatic event

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Qatar and Sri Lanka, Katara and the Sri Lankan embassy celebrated the heritage of Ceylon tea in a special tasting evening.

The Katara Cultural Village Foundation hosted a Ceylon tea tasting event on the evening of Tuesday (June 9) in Hall 32. The event was organised by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Qatar, in co-operation with the Qatari-Sri Lankan Business Council.

In attendance were HE Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, director general of Katara, and Roshan Sithara Khan Azard, ambassador of Sri Lanka to Qatar, along with a number of ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of official bodies, and guests interested in Sri Lankan culture and heritage.

The evening began with a welcoming address emphasising that Ceylon tea represents a rich heritage combining authenticity, craftsmanship, and quality. The address noted that the celebration coincided with International Tea Day and aimed to highlight



HE Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti., Ambassador Roshan Sithara Khan Azard during the event.

the history of Ceylon tea and its global standing as one of the most famous teas in the world. The ceremony included the screening of a documentary film that traced the origins and development of Ceylon tea since the 19th century, showcasing the historical stages that contributed to its global prominence, as well as highlighting its economic and cultural role in Sri Lanka.

In her remarks, Ambassador

Azard emphasised the special significance of this year's celebration, coinciding with the 159th anniversary of the Ceylon tea industry and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Qatar.

She explained that Ceylon tea continues to symbolise Sri Lanka's resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to quality, noting that successive

generations of Sri Lankans have contributed to the development of this industry and the maintenance of its global standing since the pioneering efforts of the Scottish tea planter named James Taylor in 1867.

She added that relations between Sri Lanka and Qatar have witnessed continuous development over the past five decades, encompassing trade, investment, aviation, tourism, education, employment, sports, and culture, affirming that the close human ties between the two peoples have formed a fundamental pillar of this distinguished relationship.

She added that choosing Ceylon tea to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations reflects its symbolic values of hospitality, friendship, and communication between peoples, noting that tea has historically served as a means of fostering rapprochement, dialogue, and understanding between different cultures.

The event concluded with a tasting of a selection of premium Ceylon teas, along with an assortment of traditional Sri Lankan dishes and sweets, in an atmosphere that reflected the depth of the cultural and human ties between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Sri Lanka.

QNA wins FANA Quality Award for training project

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) has won the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA)'s Quality Award 2024-2025 for its project to establish a joint digital training hub for Arab news agency journalists.

The project aims to enhance journalists' skills, strengthen their ability to adapt to the rapidly evolving media landscape, promote integration among member agencies, and leverage technological advancements.

In a statement, FANA said that since 2022, its General Secretariat has dedicated a special award for outstanding initiatives by its member news agencies, with the aim of supporting Arab news agencies' development and diversifying their output in line with global media-sector developments.

During the 2024-2025 period, FANA has received two submissions: QNA's and the Saudi Press Agency (SPA)'s Saudi Photos Hub, which seeks to support and develop media work and expand the reach of Arab media messaging regionally and internationally, FANA said. In recognition of their efforts and contributions to advancing Arab news agency media work, QNA and SPA will both be honoured during the 52nd FANA General Assembly session, set to take place in Q4 2026.

Titled 'the digital platform for developing modern journalism skills', QNA's project involves creating a shared internal online platform designed to train journalists

from various member agencies in modern media skills.

It comes in response to the rapid transformations taking place in the media industry and the emergence of new challenges associated with digital technologies.

The platform offers specialised and continuously updated training programs in digital journalism, multimedia content production, cybersecurity for data protection and investigative journalism, and the use of artificial intelligence in information gathering, verification, and rapid data analysis.

The project is expected to help build a cadre of media professionals capable of keeping pace with technological and digital challenges, strengthen interaction and integration among FANA agencies through knowledge-sharing and cooperation, and improve the quality of media content produced by member agencies. It will be implemented by creating a closed electronic platform featuring flexible training content of recorded courses and live broadcasts. In this context, the QNA Training Center has expressed readiness to make its training programs available to Arab news agency journalists.

The award underscores the importance of initiatives that aim to develop professional skills and strengthen Arab media co-operation. It also reflects the Federation's recognition of the project's role in meeting the evolving digital media environment's demands. (QNA)

'Sawa'ed' exhibition opens

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Msheireb Museums, in partnership with Al Markhiya Gallery, opened the "Sawa'ed" (Arms) exhibition by Qatari artist Bashir Mohammed recently.

The exhibition celebrates the men and women whose efforts and pioneering visions contributed to building modern Qatar and establishing the foundations of its renaissance over the past decades.

The exhibition serves as an artistic space that evokes an important aspect of national memory through works inspired by stories of struggle, work, and dedication that accompanied the transformation and development the country witnessed. It highlights the pivotal role of individuals in achieving accomplishments and building the future.

The title "Sawa'ed" (Arms) was chosen to reflect the symbolism of the arms that participated in constructing modern Qatar, alluding to the collective human effort that formed the cornerstone of the development journey, particularly during the oil era (the early 1930's) and the subsequent periods of rapid economic, social, and urban de-



A poster of the exhibition

velopment. The exhibition includes a collection of works that draw inspiration from aspects of Qatari daily life and the old stories of workers and pioneers who contributed to building the nation.

Through these works, the artist expresses appreciation for the values of work, perseverance, and belonging, evoking important stages in Qatar's modern history with a visual language that combines documentary elements with a contemporary artistic vision.

Sending a strong message to younger generations about the ethics of work and hard endeavours to achieve progress.

MoEHE hosts show on educational heritage

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) inaugurated the Educational Heritage Exhibition on the sidelines of the celebration of International Archives Day 2026. The exhibition, which runs till today, showcases prominent milestones in the history of education in Qatar and its development over the decades.

The exhibition includes a diverse collection of educational documents and artifacts that document the journey of education in the country, along with specialised sections displaying old books, curricula, and official publications dating from the 1960s to the 1990s.

The exhibition also includes a section dedicated to historical photographs documenting educational life during the 1960s and 1970s, highlighting the features of schools and educational activities during that period. In addition, it displays a number of antique educational tools and equipment that



were used in classrooms and laboratories.

The second day of the exhibition featured a workshop in collaboration with the National Archives of Qatar, focusing on methods of preserving heritage and historical documents. The aim is to raise awareness among Ministry staff and visitors about the importance of safeguarding documentary heritage.

Mohammed al-Abhaq, assistant director of the Public Relations and Communication Department

at the MoEHE, emphasised that the exhibition showcases significant development of the educational system in the country over the decades and provides visitors with an opportunity to learn about various stages of the educational process.

He explained that the exhibition includes several sections showcasing old textbooks and official ministry publications, along with archival photographs documenting the history of education in the country.

He noted the presence of educational artifacts previously used in schools, including the "teacher's kit" for science labs and educational geometric shapes used to explain lessons to students.

He added that the exhibition allows visitors to experience the educational environment of the past by displaying models of old classrooms, including communal wooden desks, traditional chalkboards, drawing tables, and old educational maps used to teach social studies.

QF school students in first place at National Scientific Research and Innovation Exhibition

Students from Qatar Foundation (QF) schools have achieved a new milestone by securing first place at the 18th National Scientific Research and Innovation Exhibition 2026.

Organised by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in collaboration with the Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council, the National Scientific Research and Innovation Exhibition is one of Qatar's leading platforms for showcasing student-led research and innovation projects that addresses real-world challenges and contribute to a knowledge-based society.

Three QF schools participated in this year's exhibition with 11 student research projects, three of which advanced to the final stage, representing both the primary and secondary school levels. The finalist projects came from Qatar Academy for Science and Technology, Qatar Academy Doha, and Tariq Bin Ziad Primary School.

The project "Expogenia: Pathology Classification through the use of Hierarchical Machine Learning," presented by Jassim al-Ansari and Malek Hussien of Qatar Academy for Science and Technology, was awarded first place in the Computing and Information Systems category. The achievement highlights students' ability to leverage advanced technologies and scientific research to develop innovative solutions with practical impact.

Sara H al-Hajri, executive director, Student Affairs & Community Engagement at QF's Pre-University Education, said: "This achievement reflects the educational ap-



proach embraced by QF schools, which nurtures students' curiosity, encourages inquiry and critical thinking, and empowers them to transform ideas into research projects and innovative solutions that address real-world challenges and serve society.

"We believe that education extends beyond the acquisition of knowledge. It is about empowering students to apply what they learn to create positive impact and contribute to building a better future."

Highlighting the significance of investing in students' research and innovation capabilities from an early age, al-Hajri said: "Through

our integrated educational ecosystem, we continue to nurture a new generation of researchers, innovators, and leaders who are equipped to contribute to a knowledge-based economy and drive progress and innovation in Qatar and beyond."

Also advancing to the final stage were the project "SignBridge: An AI System Translating English and Arabic Speech into American Sign Language for Inclusive Communication in Qatar School", developed Almayasa Alkhal, Lina Mouqbil from Qatar Academy Doha, and "Horse Tail Movement Analysis for Emotion Detection School", developed by Al Reem Khalid Al Naama, Noora Yousif Alkuwari from Tariq

We believe that education extends beyond the acquisition of knowledge. It is about empowering students to apply what they learn to create positive impact and contribute to building a better future: Sara H al-Hajri, executive director, Student Affairs & Community Engagement at QF's Pre-University Education

Bin Ziad Primary School.

In addition, the project "Expogenia" received a Special Award from Google, while "SignBridge" earned two Special Awards, one from Google and another from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, recognising the projects' innovation and potential impact.

As part of its commitment to supporting emerging talent, QF's Gifted Hub, under the PUE's Student Affairs and Community Engagement Department, provided a special award at the exhibition. Two student projects were selected to receive additional support, enabling them to further develop their research and transform their ideas into projects with sustainable impact.

QatarDebate Center explores local production as priority for Qatar's future

QatarDebate Center, founded by Qatar Foundation, concluded a high-level panel discussion on local production as an urgent priority shaped by rapid global shifts, including supply chain disruptions and international crises. The panel was held as part of the "Qatar Connects" series, under the theme: "Beyond Imports: Will Local Production Lead Qatar's Future?"

Moderated by Mohammed al-Hamadi, a presenter and media personality, the session brought together entrepreneurs, local producers, and stakeholders from the country's production ecosystem.

Discussions focused on exploring challenges and identifying opportunities to build a more independent and resilient Qatari economy, while encouraging society to move from a culture of consumption toward a more active role in production.

Highlighting the importance of the session, Abdulrahman al-

Subaie, director of administration and strategy at QatarDebate Center, said: "This discussion was organised at an ideal time, one that compels us to reassess our national development priorities amid global crises and supply chain disruptions. Today, we did not discuss temporary initiatives; rather, we sought to reinforce the concepts of resilience, sustainability, and self-sufficiency."

The panel featured Saoud al-Hamadi, founder of Enavra, and Fatma Ali al-Khater, founder of Torba Market. The discussion moved beyond the question of whether local production matters, focusing instead on what it will take to strengthen it in practice.

Against this backdrop, speakers examined six key dimensions, including local production priorities, ecosystem readiness, individual and home-based production, behind-the-scenes challenges, government support, and future opportunities.

Kahramaa rolls out summer campaign for conservation

QNA
Doha

Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has announced the launch of its Summer 2026 awareness campaign under the slogan ‘Keep it Sustained’, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote a culture of responsible consumption and reinforce the principles of environmental sustainability within Qatari society.

The launch comes in line with the summer season, which wit-

nesses a notable increase in electricity and water consumption due to the intensive use of air conditioning systems and the growing demand for resources. This, in turn, places additional pressure on the electricity network and leads to increased loads during peak hours.

The campaign aims to drive sustainable behavioural change in the use of electricity and water by raising community awareness on the importance of optimal resource utilisation, contributing to the stability of the electricity network, and reducing carbon emissions, in support of achieving sustainable

development goals in the State of Qatar.

The ‘We Want It to Last’ campaign is built around four main pillars to ensure a sustainable and impactful outcome.

Electric Load Management: Raising awareness among consumers on the importance of distributing the use of high-load electrical appliances and avoiding their operation during peak hours.

Improving Building and Appliance Efficiency: Encouraging the use of high-efficiency appliances and the adoption of smart systems to control and optimize consump-

tion. Conserving Water Consumption and Air Conditioning Use: Promoting best practices such as setting optimal air conditioning temperatures and adopting modern irrigation technologies.

Transition Towards Smart Behaviour: Leveraging smart solutions and technologies to monitor and manage consumption efficiently. The campaign relies on a set of simple and impactful messages aimed at supporting behavioural change, most notably improving the efficiency of air conditioning usage, avoiding the operation of high-load electri-

cal appliances during peak hours (from 12pm to 6pm), using energy-efficient appliances, and promoting water leaks repair to minimize wastage. The campaign will run over a period of three months (June - August 2026) and will include a range of initiatives and interactive activities, such as community challenges to enhance public engagement, on-ground events and field activities, intensive digital awareness campaigns across various platforms, and partnerships with government and private sector entities.

Kahramaa also relies on a set of

performance indicators to measure the campaign’s impact and assess the achievement of its objectives.

Kahramaa emphasized that the success of the campaign relies primarily on community awareness and engagement, noting that every simple act of responsible consumption contributes to achieving a significant and lasting impact. The “We Want It to Last” campaign represents an open national call for every individual to actively participate in preserving natural resources, enhancing quality of life, and ensuring their sustainability for future generations.

QCS, Doha Bank sign partnership to support children living with cancer

In a reflection of the values of compassion, solidarity, and community support, Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) organised a visit to children living with cancer at Sidra Medicine, with the support of Doha Bank, as part of its sustainable “Patient Visits” programme.

The initiative aims to provide psychosocial and community support to patients and accompany them throughout their treatment journey. The visit carried messages of hope and encouragement for both the children and their families. QCS representatives engaged directly with the patients, sharing meaningful moments that helped ease the challenges associated with treatment while creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere within the hospital.

Symbolic gifts were also presented to the children, highlighting the importance of emotional support in fostering optimism and resilience.

This visit forms part of a series

of regular visits organised by QCS across healthcare institutions in Qatar that provide cancer care. The visit also included the provision of individual community-based psychosocial support services for children living with the disease.”

The “Patient Visits” programme is one of QCS’s sustainable initiatives, implemented regularly to strengthen the culture of community support and reinforce patients’ sense of belonging and care. By engaging various sectors of society to support cancer patients, the programme positively impacts their emotional and psychological well-being.

Mona Ashkanani, general manager of Qatar Cancer Society, said: “We highly value Doha Bank’s support for this visit, which reflects the importance of community partnerships in advancing humanitarian initiatives.

Such collaborations help expand the impact of programmes designed to support patients and

their families while promoting the values of social responsibility and human solidarity.”

She noted: “Qatar Cancer Society remains committed to providing an integrated system of psychosocial and community support for cancer patients, driven by our belief that hope and support are essential pillars alongside medical treatment in the journey toward recovery.”

Al-Anoud al-Attiah, head of Marketing and Public Relations at Doha Bank, added: “We are proud of our partnership with the Qatar Cancer Society in this humanitarian initiative, which reflects our strong commitment to corporate social responsibility and our dedication to supporting those who need care and attention.

Bringing joy and hope to young patients and their families is a noble humanitarian message that we deeply believe in, and we consider it an integral part of our role in contributing to a more cohesive and compassionate society.

QM wins 29 awards at 47th Annual Telly Awards

Qatar Museums (QM) won 29 awards at the 47th Annual Telly Awards, one of the world’s most prestigious competitions recognising excellence in video and television across all screens.

QM said in a statement that this achievement underscores the growing international recognition for its digital storytelling and creative content, highlighting the institution’s commitment to sharing Qatar’s cultural narratives with global audiences through innovative and engaging media.

The awards were earned by 10 films produced by the institution between early 2024 and the end of 2025.

Selected from among more than 13,000 entries submitted globally, QM’s productions were honoured across categories including Museums & Galleries, Documentary, Promotional, Gaming, Public Awareness, and Craft, receiving three Gold, 17 Silver, and nine Bronze Telly Awards.

The Gold award-winning titles include MATHAF, I.M. Pei: A Museum on the Water in the General – Museums & Galleries category and King of Dunes: Saeed Al-Hajri in the General – Automotive category. Moreover, all 10 submitted films are available to watch on the Qatar Museums YouTube channel.

“This achievement celebrates

our drive to share Qatar’s story with the world, not as distant heritage, but as a living, breathing conversation.

By reaching audiences locally, regionally, and internationally, we hope to show that digital storytelling can build bridges, and make culture feel more personal, no matter where you are,” said Director of Digital Experience at QM Asma Yacoub al-Jefairi.

Founded in 1979, the Telly Awards annually showcases the best work created in video and television content across all screens, recognising outstanding work in television, digital media, branded content, and immersive storytelling. (QNA)

Core Curriculum Programme felicitates outstanding students

The Core Curriculum Programme (CCP) at the General Studies Deanship of Qatar University (QU) recently organised an awards ceremony to recognise students for their outstanding achievements, creativity, and contributions throughout their academic journey.

During the ceremony, 16 students were honoured for developing six innovative and impactful research projects and initiatives. Dr Saba Qadhi, dean of General Studies at QU, emphasised that these activities and events reflect the deanship’s strategic commitment to promoting skills-based learning and providing experiential educational opportunities that prepare students with the competencies needed for academic and professional success.

She emphasised that these initiatives align with the attributes of the QU graduate, which are based on academic excellence, leadership, innovation, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.

Dr Qadhi added: “Such events showcase student achievements and serve as an important platform to raise awareness among students and the wider community about the role of the General Studies Deanship and its various programs in developing future-ready skills, nurturing talent, and encouraging active engage-



Dr Ali Fetais, director of the Core Curriculum Programme (CCP) at the General Studies Deanship of Qatar University (QU).

ment. These efforts align with QU’s strategy and contribute to the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly in the areas of human and social development.”

Dr Ali Fetais, director of the CCP, expressed pride in the high calibre of student projects and initiatives, noting that the awards reflect the programme’s mission to provide a shared university learning experience that enriches students’ educational journeys, strengthens their research and applied skills, and enhances their capacity for innovation, initiative, and social responsibility.

He added that the diversity of the winning projects demonstrates the impact of Core Curriculum courses in enabling students to connect knowledge with

practice and develop ideas that can be further expanded to benefit both the university and the wider community.

The awards were presented across three main categories designed to reflect the diverse talents and competencies of students. The Core Curriculum Community Engagement Award recognised students who demonstrated excellence in developing impactful initiatives that served the community both within and beyond the university.

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award for Core Curriculum Students honoured students whose entrepreneurial ideas offered creative solutions to real-world challenges. The Core Curriculum Applied Creativity Award recognised students who developed original concepts that highlighted an understanding of the creative industries and their influence on society.

The CCP is an essential component of all academic programs offered at QU. It consists of a range of college-level courses drawn from multiple disciplines and is designed to provide students with a broad foundation of knowledge and transferable skills. Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours as part of their graduation requirements, organised across several curricular groups.

Cabinet approves national local content strategy, metrology law

From Page 1

They also aim to achieve the highest levels of competitiveness, contribute to the development of private-sector businesses and support the growth of local industries and companies, in line with the pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy aimed at building a diversified and sustainable economy based on knowledge and innovation.

The Cabinet approved a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on co-operation between the Ministry of Justice in Qatar and the Department of Justice in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, as well as a draft MoU between the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority and the Agency of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market.

The Cabinet also viewed a presentation by HE the Minister of

Municipality on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as an effective tool for planning and accelerating decision-making across the Ministry of Municipality and other government entities. The presentation also addressed enhancing the use of comprehensive geospatial data, developed and continuously updated in accordance with the highest standards, in a manner that meets the needs of government entities, the private sector and the wider community.

Justice goes public: Trade Court opens up judicial rulings

From Page 1

The initiative does not arrive from nowhere. It extends years of patient labour by the Council to modernise the judiciary, building on the earlier publication of judicial principles and the steady release of civil and commercial rulings within the Judicial Encyclopedia. It is, in short, the next chapter in a longer story of digital transformation that has reshaped how the courts conduct their business.

For all its openness, the Code is careful where it must be. It follows an advanced method of publication that guards privacy while delivering the fullest benefit to researchers, specialists and anyone with a stake in legal affairs. It is designed to nourish legal and judicial study, offering an up-to-date reference that is periodically enriched with rulings drawn from both local and international sources.

There is a practical dividend, too. By raising the quality of judicial work and spreading legal knowledge in the contested terrain of commercial disputes, the Code sharpens the efficiency of the courts, enriches their academic and working content, and – not least – steadies the confidence of investors and business owners in Qatar’s judicial environment.

The ambition reaches further still, to the league tables by which nations are measured. The Court expects the Code to bolster Qatar’s standing on international indices by supporting transparency, faster access to justice and the documentation of legal principles – gains it hopes will register in the Rule of Law Index of the World Justice Project (WJP)



and in measures of the investment and business climate covering law enforcement, dispute resolution, investor certainty and the speed with which justice is reached, under the “Be Ready” framework.

Access, the Court promises, will be neither gated nor grudging. The Code can be reached directly through the website and through the Judicial Encyclopedia, open to all users without restriction.

The launch, the Court affirmed, embodies its commitment to keeping pace with international best practice in digital justice – reinforcing transparency, building trust and raising legal awareness. It points, in the end, towards a steadier and clearer environment for law and investment, and a modern judiciary that places knowledge, and easy passage to justice, at the very centre of its purpose.

Qatar pivots to private sector for food security

From Page 1

“Our main objective is sustainable private sector investment. To achieve that, you need two components. One, for it to be profitable, because if it’s not profitable, it’s not going to be sustainable,” he said.

He noted that decent commercial returns are a precondition, not an afterthought, for mobilising private capital at scale: “For private capital to be mobilised, they need to achieve decent returns, acceptable returns, and good returns. This is what we excel at, identifying those opportunities that are commercially profitable, but at the same time, with focus on achieving development impact.”

He said the IFC model is self-reinforcing: the more profitable opportunities are identified and demonstrated, the easier it becomes to attract additional private capital into the sector.

“With mobilising private capital, as long as it’s profitable, it will be sustainable. More private capital will come in. The more opportunities you identify, the easier you will be able to mobilise more private capital,” Jefri explained.

He said the approach, distinguishes IFC from development institutions that rely on grants, which he described as less durable over time. “We don’t mobilise grants or public money, because that may not be as sustainable,” Jefri noted.

“IFC’s Doha office, which operates with a resident team, continues to grow its presence in Qatar with a focus on channelling Qatari investment across sectors, particularly food security systems,” he added.

Xi's visit produced 'far-reaching blueprint': N Korea

AFP
Seoul

The leaders of North Korea and China adopted a "far-reaching blueprint" for bilateral ties during Xi Jinping's recent visit to Pyongyang, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said yesterday.

China's president made a rare visit to diplomatically isolated North Korea on Monday after hosting a series of world leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in Beijing.

The trip also came at a time of unusually warm relations between North Korea and Russia, where Pyongyang has sent soldiers and munitions to assist Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Kim and Xi "expressed satisfaction and deep emotion over the fact that they provided a far-reaching blueprint for the development of the relations", KCNA reported.

During the two-day trip, "the countries further deepened the revolutionary friendship and close comradesly relationship and affirmed their steadfast will to develop the traditional DPRK-China friendly ties into a model of the most powerful and strategic relations", it added.

Xi and Kim toured the Central Cadres Training School of the Workers' Party, where they discussed the training of party officials and planted a commemorative tree, before visiting the Friendship Tower memorial honouring Chinese soldiers who fought in the Korean War.

Xi was afforded a lavish welcome on the trip, which he took with his wife and other senior officials.

Afterwards, he thanked Kim in a letter, saying the leaders had "made an in-depth exchange of views on the issues of mutual interest and achieved a series of important common understanding", according to KCNA.

The talks "showed the firm determination of both sides to add lustre to the traditional friendship, promote development and prosperity together and defend peace and stability in the region and the rest of the world", Xi reportedly wrote.

On Tuesday, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported Xi as saying he had reached "an important consensus with Kim on developing China-DPRK relations in the new era", using North Korea's official acronym.

Xi pushed to strengthen diplomatic, law enforcement and military ties, according to Beijing's state media.

By sharing information in the military sector, China appears to want to "direct-



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and China's President Xi Jinping planting a tree at the Central Cadre School of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang. (AFP)

ly assess technological changes within the North Korean military and the status of Russian technology transfer", said Hong Min, an analyst at the Korea Insti-

tute for National Unification.

China may also hope to "collect intelligence for the purpose of monitoring trends in pro-Russian and pro-Chinese human

networks within the North Korean military", he added.

Xi's trip came after last month's talks with Trump, during which the White House said the leaders "confirmed their shared goal to denuclearise North Korea".

But official media reports from both China and North Korea made no mention of denuclearisation in their coverage of the Xi-Kim summit.

Analysts said that suggested Beijing was tacitly accepting Pyongyang's status as a nuclear-armed state.

Kim has repeatedly vowed never to give up his nuclear arsenal, and his powerful sister said before Xi's visit that the programme was Pyongyang's "line of no retreat".

Despite being historically highly reliant on political and economic support from China, Kim has drawn North Korea closer to Russia in recent years.

He has boosted an alliance with Putin by sending troops to fight alongside Russian forces against Ukraine.

Still, Beijing remains an economic anchor for North Korea, whose economy has been hobbled for years by international sanctions over its nuclear programme.

China accounted for \$2.6bn of North Korea's foreign trade - nearly 98% of the total - in 2024, according to Republic of Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Belfast stabbing suspect in court after night of violence

AFP
Belfast

Burnt-out cars and smashed windows littered Belfast streets yesterday as a Sudanese man appeared in court over a brutal knife attack that triggered "terrifying" violence against immigrants in Northern Ireland.

Authorities accused far-right activists - including US tech billionaire Elon Musk - of stoking divisions as rioters in Belfast torched vehicles and buildings late Tuesday, forcing families to flee their homes.

The disorder comes with tensions already high in the United Kingdom following skirmishes in southern England last week over the police handling of the murder of a white student by a British Sikh man.

Anselme Shima, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and who has lived in Northern Ireland since 2013, called the situation "terrifying".

"I have two children at home and this morning I am wondering, 'Can I send them to school?'" the 48-year-old told AFP yesterday.

Northern Ireland police chief Jon Boutcher told BBC radio: "Last night we rescued so many families."

"Taking families - a baby as young as two months - out of their address to safety, taking them



Burnt-out cars and homes are pictured after demonstrations turned violent the night before, in eastern Belfast, Northern Ireland, yesterday. (AFP)

to police stations."

Thirty-year-old Hadi Alodid, a refugee originally from Sudan, made a brief appearance at Belfast Magistrates' Court charged with the attempted murder of a man in his 40s on Monday.

The hearing heard that the victim lost an eye during the attack.

Alodid, also charged with possession of a bladed article in public and threats to kill, was denied bail by a judge, who adjourned the case to July 8.

Footage of the attack - which showed several people intervening, one wielding a hurling stick - sparked widespread condemnation.

It went viral on social media, with appeals for calm from police

and lawmakers going unheeded in some areas of Northern Ireland. Calls for more protests from 1:00pm (1200 GMT) were already circulating yesterday.

Hundreds of protesters, many masked, gathered at several locations across Belfast, AFP journalists witnessed. A bus and several cars were set alight, while a building caught fire and its residents had to be evacuated.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on X that the violence was "shocking and completely unacceptable", adding that "people were targeted last night because of their background and I will not tolerate it".

Northern Irish political leaders and the police had urged people

not to share the video, noting its "graphic nature would only serve to retraumatise those involved".

But numerous social media accounts linked to so-called "patriots" shared the footage, urging people to "protest against mass immigration into their communities".

The chairwoman of Britain's ruling Labour party, Anna Turley, said online platforms were "playing a role in driving" the unrest and suggested X owner Musk was one of the "bad faith actors" inflaming tensions.

Musk had retweeted a post by anti-immigration activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon - also known as Tommy Robinson - adding: "Only by protesting REPEATEDLY and LOUDLY will there be any change!!"

He also retweeted a post by Rupert Lowe, leader of Restore Britain, a fringe hard-right party, saying "millions must go".

Musk "has a responsibility, everyone in public and civil life has a responsibility to call for calm and not to stoke grievance or hatred... that puts vulnerable people and our communities at risk," Turley said.

Alodid is a Sudanese refugee with a residence permit valid until 2028, according to the UK interior ministry.

Boutcher said he had arrived in the UK in 2023 via Paris and Dublin and "was not known" to police.

Modi, Trump likely to meet at G7, source says

Reuters
New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold bilateral talks with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the Group of 7 summit, with trade, visas and energy co-operation set to be high on the agenda, an Indian government source said.

The June 15 to 17 summit, in the French town of Evian-les-Bains, will bring together leaders from the world's major economies, including Trump, alongside other high-level delegations from countries including India.

Modi is set to start his five-day visit from June 13 and will travel to Slovakia after attending the G7 meeting.

"The prime minister is expected to hold talks on the trade ties, energy co-operation, and also take up the issue of H-1B visas," the source with direct knowledge of the matter said.

A meeting between the two leaders would come at a delicate moment in ties between New Delhi and Washington, which have been strained by US tariffs on Indian goods and

Trump's repeated assertions - which India denies - that he intervened to end India's brief conflict last year with Pakistan.

Recent high-level engagement, including US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India last month, has helped ease some of the tension, with the two sides discussing trade, visas, maritime security, energy supplies and the Middle East.

Trade talks between New Delhi and Washington are moving towards the first tranche of a bilateral trade agreement which could be concluded by mid-July, India's Trade Minister Piyush Goyal said last week.

India is pushing for preferential tariff treatment from the US as part of negotiations on an interim trade deal.

Washington has also proposed an additional 12.5% tariff on imports from India and several other countries, alleging the use of forced labour - which India has rejected.

"The talks on the additional tariff have not concluded yet and we are hopeful that we will get competitive rates," a second Indian government source said.

Indonesian military court jails four officers involved in acid attack on rights activist

Reuters
Jakarta

An Indonesian military court yesterday sentenced four military officers to jail terms of up to three years for their involvement in an acid attack on an activist known for campaigning against the growing role of the military.

One defendant was sentenced to three years in jail, a second to two and a half years, the third to two years and the fourth to one and a half years, judge Fredy Ferdian said, adding the first and second defendants were also dishonourably discharged from the military.

He said the attack was not influenced by any "chain of command".

The four officers were found guilty on charges of serious premeditated assault after attacking Andrie Yunus, a deputy co-ordinator with the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence, a rights group also known as KontraS.

Responding to the ruling, the defendants' lawyers said they would consider an appeal. The four soldiers were all members of Indonesia's military intelligence unit with ranks of captain, first lieutenant, and second sergeant, another judge Zainal said. The first defendant was given the heaviest sentence because he was the one who executed the attack and "provoke" the others to join in, he added.

The second defendant was the one who came with the idea to use acid, while the third and fourth defendant "acted passively" by "participating" in the attack, he added.



Indonesian military personnel Sami Lakka, Nandala Dwi Prasetya, Budhi Hariyanto Widhi Cahyono, and Edi Sudarko, charged over an acid attack on human rights activist Andrie Yunus, a deputy co-ordinator with the rights group KontraS, arrive at the courtroom for their verdicts at the military court in Jakarta, yesterday. (Reuters)

Prosecutors had previously demanded that all the defendants be sentenced to two and a half years. The chief of the military's intelligence unit resigned in March in what a military spokesperson described as a form of responsibility for the attack. Another judge said the defendants prepared the attack because they were "offended and outraged" by Andrie, who interrupted a closed-door parliamentary meeting in a hotel attended by military officials.

The meeting last year concerned revisions to military law that would allow more soldiers to be appointed to civilian posts. They were also outraged because Andrie had accused the military of being the mastermind behind nation-

wide protests in August last year, the judge said.

"The attack stemmed from the defendants' own initiative and spontaneity," he added.

The assault inflicted burns on 20% of Andrie's body and left his right eye heavily damaged.

Amnesty International Indonesia said the verdict brings no justice to Andrie and "fails to duly consider the involvement of other actors or the chain of command." KontraS' member Jane Rosalina told a press conference yesterday that the sentences were too lenient. She said the trial was a sham to protect the military's reputation, adding that the "attempted murder" on Andrie should have been tried in civilian courts.

University students across Korea protest in ballot shortage row

AFP
Seoul

University students across Republic of Korea staged protests yesterday as anger grew over ballot paper shortages at recent local elections.

Dozens of polling stations nationwide were short of around 7,000 ballot papers on June 3 election day, official data showed.

The supplies were eventually replenished on voting day, but the mishap fuelled fury in a nation where unfounded claims of vote tampering have found a growing audience.

The local election was the first nationwide vote since President Lee Jae-myung took office following conservative Yoon Suk-yeol's ouster over his brief martial law declaration in late 2024. Lee's ruling liberal Democratic Party won most races in the vote for mayors, local government officials and as-



Korean protesters wave the national flags outside a vote-counting centre in Seoul yesterday, to call for a rerun of the local elections due to a shortage of ballot papers. (AFP)

sembly members, but failed to flip the critical Seoul mayoral seat.

The head of the election watchdog has resigned over the ballot paper row, but authorities have not offered to hold a new vote, sparking huge protests at the weekend.

Student unions at 18 universities said they will hold new demonstrations from 6pm yesterday.

"We are determined to pro-

test because people are universally outraged regardless of political affiliation," Hwang In-seo of Yonsei University's student council, told AFP.

Analysts say the National Election Commission, a constitutional body with limited external oversight, has long faced gaps in internal discipline and review mechanisms.

Japan lawmakers back plan to ease imperial succession crisis

Japan's legislature endorsed yesterday a proposed framework aimed at easing a looming imperial succession crisis, with just one young heir to the throne currently remaining.

The imperial household operates under strict rules that allow only male offspring from the male side of the family to ascend to the ancient Chrysanthemum Throne. That means that the household's future currently hinges on 19-year-old Prince Hisahito, Emperor Naruhito's nephew and the only

young man in the family. Other family members are either women - who are not allowed to inherit the throne - or older men, the youngest among them 60-year-old Crown Prince Akishino, who is Naruhito's brother and Hisahito's father. In a bid to expand the thinning line of succession, lawmakers endorsed in principle amending the Imperial Household Law, presenting their initiative to Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. The proposals would allow women keep their royal status even after

marrying someone outside the family, and let the imperial family adopt male distant relatives. "Given all the differing opinions, we believe we've managed to produce the best possible result," lower house speaker Eisuke Mori told a news conference before presenting the legislature's view to Takaichi. Once her government drafts the amendments, the bill will return to the legislature, with Mori expressing his wish to pass it before the current parliament session ends on July 17. (AFP)

Wins from Xi visit, but limits remain

North Korea and China both walked away claiming major wins from Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit this week to the isolated state, which helped elevate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s global stature and pulled Pyongyang more tightly into China’s orbit. The two countries each lavished the other with praise and spoke of deeper co-operation during the two-day trip, which saw Kim greet Xi with a 21-gun salute as well as a performance of Chinese and North Korean songs and avoided discussion of thornier issues such as denuclearisation and the United States.

Kim “has often talked about how North Korea is now a pivotal player in reshaping the global order, and its partnership with Russia has been a major catalyst in validating that assertion,” said Jenny Town, director of the Korea program at the Washington-based Stimson Center. “Having Xi now take his first trip out of country this year to visit Pyongyang on an agenda that didn’t include North Korea’s nuclear programme, was a big win for Kim.” The lack of discussion around denuclearisation, which had in the past strained China’s relationship with North Korea, is a significant change. On the eve of Xi’s visit, Kim Yo Jong, the North Korean leader’s sister, slammed the US as spreading false information, after Washington in May said that Xi and US President Donald Trump

had confirmed a shared goal to denuclearise North Korea during talks in Beijing. “Beijing has very clearly moved on from that issue and now tacitly accepts North Korea as a nuclear state, which likely puts China on an equal footing with Russia in Pyongyang’s eyes,” said Jeremy Chan, a China & Northeast Asia analyst at Eurasia Group. “I think China achieved its primary goal of this trip, which was drawing North Korea closer and counterbalancing Russia’s growing influence in North Korea.” Asked about whether Kim and Xi discussed denuclearisation on Tuesday, China’s foreign ministry told a regular briefing that China’s position and policy on the peninsula remained consistent and stable. It did not immediately respond to a request for comment if the lack of mention meant an implicit acceptance of North Korea as a nuclear state. Still, analysts noted there were distinct differences in the two sides’ accounts of the leaders’ talks, with N Korea more focused on the pageantry of the event and positioning itself as an equal to Beijing, while China spoke of hoped-for outcomes around trade, tourism and law enforcement. Town said it indicated there were limits to how far the North was willing to go to improve the relationship with China, after moving closer to Russia in recent years by sending military support for the Ukraine war and receiving economic help in return. — Reuters



Image for illustration purposes only. (AFP/File Photo)

By Rory Miller

In the final days of May, a long-range aerial drone hit a tanker in a port in the Rostov region of Southern Russia. Two days later, three vessels were badly damaged by drones off Turkey’s Black Sea coast.



Similar incidents have occurred regularly since the start of 2026. In January, a drone hit an oil tanker traveling at high-speed off the Turkish coast. In March, an LNG tanker was badly damaged by a drone near Malta in the Mediterranean.

The above attacks – which most assume are a spillover from the Russia-Ukraine war – provide another reminder of the rise of drones as the weapon of choice in contemporary warfare.

But they also illuminate the rising importance in recent years of a non-military weapon – the use of energy sanctions as a tool of coercion. Since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russia has faced the most comprehensive sanctions regime ever imposed on a major energy exporter. In response, Moscow has built-up the largest sanctions evasion program in modern history to redirect energy exports to customers around the world.

Shadow fleets, also known as “ghost” or “dark” fleets, are central to these efforts to deliver sanctioned oil and gas. For example, after Russia’s Arctic 2 LNG plant closed in October 2024 due to sanctions pressure, LNG carriers modified to evade detection were redirected to supply alternative markets. Russia has by far the biggest shadow fleet – estimated at more than 600 vessels. But in recent years, other sanctioned energy producers – from Venezuela to Iran – have also embraced this strategy.

After decades of US sanctions, Tehran has developed one of the most sophisticated evasion capabilities in the world. Since the US blockade of its ports began in mid-April, dozens of shadow vessels linked to Iran have been intercepted by the US navy in Gulf waters.

In all cases, these fleets play an important role in generating the vital income needed to finance domestic economies and, in some cases, military campaigns. It is estimated that Russian revenues from its shadow fleet could be as high as \$100bn a year.

Apart from their financial value, these fleets also help energy producers to consolidate existing diplomatic and strategic partnerships and build new ones. This enables them to overcome one of the main objectives of sanctions: to isolate and de-legitimize the targeted state.

Shadow fleets need to adopt a variety of techniques to evade detection.

These include the falsification of vessel registration numbers and the fabrication of manifests and journey routes to disguise cargoes and intended destinations.

It is also increasingly common for ships to turn off their Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders to prevent tracking and monitoring. GPS spoofing technology that communicates false locations is also regularly deployed.

Stealth or mid-sea transfers are also used to hide the point of origin of cargoes. This is a form of resource laundering whereby oil is moved from one sanctioned tanker to another in international waters, sometimes on multiple occasions during a single voyage.

Another way to disguise the origin of cargoes is to lease vessels registered in non-sanctioned states. One of the ships attacked off the Turkish coast in late May was registered in the Western Pacific island of Palau, the other two in Sierra Leone in West Africa.

Beyond using these “flags of convenience”, shadow fleets also rely on the support of non-sanctioned states or commercial actors within those states to succeed.

It is estimated, for example, that more than 15 ports and terminals across the globe accept sanctioned deliveries and provide shadow fleets with trans-shipment facilities. In recent years, the eastern Malaysian peninsula has become one of the preferred hubs for this activity.

It is also common – using loopholes in anti-money laundering mechanisms – for complex financial transactions to be routed through front or shell companies in non-sanctioned jurisdictions. An increasingly important aspect of this is alternative payment options in crypto and non-dollar currencies.

An ecosystem of maritime insurance and certification vendors is also developing in third-party states. This allows for shadow fleets to gain coverage that would be denied by major western insurance and classification providers. This elaborate shadow fleet network raises an important issue beyond geopolitics.

These fleets – often operating without internationally recognised insurance or seaworthiness certification – can pose serious maritime safety and environmental risks. Many of these vessels, including an estimated 70% of Russian shadow tankers, are operating beyond their recommended retirement age. Aging vessels are more likely to be involved in navigation accidents and oil spills in busy shipping lanes.

These risks increase with shadow fleets because of the deliberate avoidance of port inspections, poor ship maintenance, inadequate crew training, and substandard equipment. The sheer size of the oceans and the high number of ships moving sanctioned cargoes every day complicates detection.

So does the complexity of maritime law. Shadow fleets benefit from contested jurisdiction in disputed waterways. They also take advantage of the lack of coast guard authority in the world’s Exclusive Economic Zones.

Moreover, imposing sanctions is not the same as enforcing them. Enforcement requires a level of multilateral cooperation and coordination that is hard to achieve due to different national priorities.

For example, during recent G7 discussions the US vetoed a Canadian proposal backed by other members to set up a dedicated task force to monitor and crack-down on shadow fleets. The very fact that state actors are resorting to drone attacks on the high seas to stop shadow fleets highlights the limited effectiveness of existing, non-military, enforcement methods.

But these attacks also highlight the centrality of these fleets to a sophisticated alternative maritime infrastructure that exists solely to circumvent energy sanctions. As long there are customers willing to buy sanctioned oil and gas, shadow fleets will continue to adapt and innovate to undermine energy sanctions. And as long as energy-based coercive diplomacy lacks legitimacy across much of the international community, sanctioned energy actors will always find willing partners to support vital shadow networks.

• The writer is professor of International Politics and director of the Small States and Energy Studies Programs at Georgetown University in Qatar @RoryDavidMiller

Money is not a strategy



By Jamil K Mroue

The Gulf built a modern marvel out of sand. To protect it, the region must now think for itself – because the old guarantees can no longer be trusted. In a single lifetime, a coast that had barely changed for centuries became one of the most striking places on earth. The cities of the Gulf are filled with world-class architecture. Their ports, airports and markets are tied into every route of global trade. Their festivals, sports tournaments and museums now bring the world to a region that, two generations ago, most of the world could not find on a map. I write as an admirer. But admiration is not flattery, and a region’s friends owe it honesty, not applause.

The Gulf was built by the whole world. A Brazilian engineer, a stonemason from Upper Egypt, a young lawyer from Beirut, a truck driver from Kerala – the list circles the globe many times over, and many who came went home wealthy. Around 200 nationalities now live and work around the old oil wells, while the Gulf Arab who stood beside them turned a stroke of geological luck into a leap forward for his society. By any cold measure, it is one of the great development stories of our time.

The strength behind the spectacle is real. The Gulf’s sovereign-wealth funds together hold close to \$5tn – by most estimates, around two-fifths of all the money the world’s governments have saved. Dubai’s DP World moves roughly a tenth of the world’s container traffic through terminals in some 70 countries. The region has bought into global football, hosted world tournaments, and turned the visa, the online government service and the airport into tools of statecraft. This is not a mirage. It is real and solid.

All of this required a bold gamble that few societies dare to make: to change a traditional way of life almost overnight, while trying to protect its faith, its values and its heritage. That the Gulf has mostly kept that balance – modern, yet not cut off from itself – is one of its quieter achievements. It is also one of its most fragile.

Of course, none of it came cheap, and much money was wasted. But waste follows every windfall. Any society made suddenly rich by what it did not earn will throw away part of it, from the oil fields of Texas to the

Careful economies of northern Europe. That is a footnote, not the real problem.

The real problem is the present. Having leapt from the edge of the world to its centre, the Gulf must now ask a hard question: is that achievement to be lost, and to whom? Since late February, when American and Israeli strikes opened a war on Iran, the region has learned how exposed it really is. Iran’s missiles and drones fell on Gulf soil, aimed at the American bases that the region hosts. A war meant to be fought between others was being fought, in part, on Gulf ground – and the very bases built to keep the Gulf safe had helped to make it a target. The danger is no longer theoretical.

Here lies the most painful lesson. For fifty years, the United States was the foundation of Gulf security. Every base, every arms deal, every quiet understanding rested on one belief: that when the moment came, Washington would protect its Gulf partners. That belief can no longer be taken for granted. Under a president who follows Israel’s lead too closely, American policy now bends first to Israeli priorities. When the missiles flew, it was Israel’s skies that were shielded first, even as Gulf cities absorbed their own share of the attacks. The patron, it turns out, has a favourite – and it is not the Gulf.

The Abraham Accords were sold as the start of a new partnership and shared security. But when tested, the promises proved convenient rather than firm. They served Israel’s interest far more than the Gulf’s. This is not an argument for turning toward Tehran, whose republic swings endlessly between fear and the dream of empire, and which remains a real threat. It is an argument for a simple truth the Gulf can no longer avoid: no one will guarantee your survival except yourself.

That demands fresh and creative thinking, and the Gulf is not short of the means to do it. But honesty also requires looking inward. The region’s success was won despite the jealousy and mistrust of its ruling families, not because of their unity. Those jealousies are old – the remains of tribal quarrels from an age that has passed. The dangers of today, by contrast, are new, and they are shared; they cannot be met with the instincts of a vanished era. New realities require new rules, and the kind of concessions that old rivalries once made unthinkable, but that

survival now makes necessary. Oil paid for the comfort of going it alone. The result is six electricity policies where one shared grid would serve better, six defence systems that do not connect, a common market still half-built, and schools, roads and hospitals that more cooperation would have made far stronger. The storm now breaking was predicted years ago, by anyone willing to look up.

Worse, the habit in every crisis has been to reach for money – to throw dollars at problems instead of solving them, and to fund proxies who fought one another in places wrongly thought to be far away. This has now proved what should never have needed proving: money buys time, not safety. Fire spreads faster than money can put it out. A cheque is not a foreign policy, and a windfall is not a strategy.

The anxiety now felt in every majlis, boardroom and family home is understandable. It is not an excuse. The Gulf deserves better than panic. Rulers do not need to love one another, or even like one another, to do the duty their people have trusted them with across generations. A customs union that truly works, an air-defence network that is genuinely shared, sovereign wealth spent on resilience instead of show – none of this requires friendship. It requires sense.

And here is the reason for hope, which is also the reason for urgency. The Gulf has the means to reinvent itself a second time. It has the money – those same trillions.

More importantly, it has the people: a generation of Gulf men and women educated at the world’s best universities and experienced in running real businesses, alongside the large skilled community the region drew to itself. The engine that raised the skylines can be made to protect them. What is missing is not money or talent. It is the decision to combine them.

The other path leads to one end: the slow loss of an extraordinary achievement, and the long regret of a people who watched a promising thing left half-finished, because their leaders could not bring themselves to build it together. The Gulf has done the impossible once. It would be an unforgivable irony to fail now at the merely difficult.

• Jamil K Mroue is Lebanese writer and previous editor of Al Hayat newspaper in London and The Daily Star in Beirut



An Iranian missile is launched, as Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said they had carried out attacks against a US base in Jordan and 21 other targets in the Gulf on Wednesday in retaliation for American strikes around the Strait of Hormuz. (Reuters)

EMERGENCY FUND

EU pledges extra €300mn for farmers hit by fertiliser price

The EU said yesterday it is planning to make another €300mn (\$346 mn) in emergency funds available to farmers hit by soaring fertiliser costs caused by the Iran war. Brussels has been under pressure to take action to blunt the impact of the Middle East crisis on agriculture, as the rise in fertiliser prices risks pushing up food costs across the bloc. “We propose to increase the agricultural reserve for 2026 by €300mn,” the EU’s budget commissioner Piotr Serafin told lawmakers, adding, the sum would “support the most affected farmers already this year” and add to €200mn the EU had already announced it was to disburse. **(AFP)**

CONTENTIOUS PICK

Trump orders downsizing of key intelligence office

President Donald Trump said yesterday that he has directed the incoming director of national intelligence, Bill Pulte, to cut the size of his agency when he takes office on an acting basis this month. In a post, Trump said that he had told Pulte, who will start on June 19, “to execute the immediate and needed downsizing of the office, reverting staff to their home agencies.” The appointment of Pulte, a Trump loyalist with no background in intelligence, has drawn ire from legislators. The ODNI agency was established to coordinate the activities of the sprawling US intelligence community. **(AFP)**

FIFA WORLD CUP

Sheinbaum says all ‘under control’ for World Cup opener

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said yesterday that “everything is under control” for the World Cup opening ceremony, despite ongoing protests by teachers. However, she told reporters that Mexico City’s famed Zocalo square — a focal point for protests — may no longer be able to host a planned fan zone during tomorrow’s opening game between Mexico and South Africa. If “for any reason” the protesters prevent the usage of the square for the fan zone, she said, there will be alternative public viewing areas in the capital. The CNTE teachers union is on strike since last week to demand a salary raise and pension reform. **(AFP)**

NATO SUMMIT

Trump presence at Nato summit ‘significant’: Erdogan

US President Donald Trump’s presence at the Nato summit in Ankara next month will be an important moment for the stability of the military alliance, Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday. “The announcement that US President Trump will attend the summit in person is a significant step in terms of the alliance’s stability,” the Turkish leader told lawmakers from his ruling AKP party. Last week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed Trump would attend the July 7-8 summit in the Turkish capital, as concerns linger about Washington’s commitment to the alliance. **(AFP)**

Amnesty accuses Israel of ‘ethnic cleansing’ of West Bank Bedouins

AFP
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Amnesty International accused Israel yesterday of an “ethnic cleansing” campaign against Bedouin and herding communities in the occupied West Bank,” charges that Israel dismissed as “false and baseless.”

A new report by the rights group found that the campaign was aimed at accelerating the annexation of the Palestinian territory, with these rural communities bearing the brunt of Israeli settler violence and forced displacement.

“Israeli authorities are accelerating annexation through a state-driven campaign of ethnic cleansing targeting Palestinian Bedouin and herding communities” of the West Bank, said the report.

Amnesty said its research showed that 27 Bedouin and herding communities comprising hundreds of Palestinians were forcibly displaced between 2023 and 2025 or were at risk of displacement in the West Bank’s Area C, which encompasses 60% of the territory and is under full Israeli control under the 1990s Oslo agreements.

In the report titled “Erasing anything Palestinian: Israel’s ethnic cleansing of West Bank Bedouin and herding communities”, Amnesty accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government — one of Israel’s most right-wing to date — of catering to the settler movement’s religious nationalist agenda.

“It has accelerated settlement expansion and land grabs, increased financial and logistical support to settlements, and it has armed settlers, thereby enabling a brutal state-sanctioned campaign of settler violence,” the report said. Israel rejected the report.

“Amnesty International has long since become a delusional fringe political organisation whose anti-Israel agenda has eclipsed any



A Palestinian boy from the Bedouin community of Dar Abu Faza rides a bicycle on the outskirts of Israeli-occupied village of Taybeh. **(AFP)**

commitment to facts, objectivity, or the genuine defence of human rights,” the foreign ministry said in a statement to AFP.

“This report is nothing more than another attempt to advance that agenda through false and baseless allegations that have no connection to reality whatsoever.”

Amnesty pointed to “explicit calls by Israeli officials for settlement expansion” and “measures aimed at minimising Palestinian presence in Area C”.

The “ethnic cleansing campaign is state-led, and state-sponsored, not driven by rogue settlers or so-called extremist ministers”, the report concluded.

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who himself lives in a settlement, is a vocal proponent of annexing the West Bank to Israel and on Tuesday was banned from France for actively promoting the idea.

In May 2026, the UN rights office also decried indications of “ethnic cleansing” in Gaza and the West Bank.

Amnesty pointed to Israel’s legal responsibilities as an occupying power in the West Bank, and

its violations of international humanitarian law.

“These violations include the war crime of unlawful deportation and transfer and the crime against humanity of deportation or forcible transfer of population,” the report said.

Bedouin and herder communities, often isolated and without security services, are particularly vulnerable to the threat of violence or displacement.

Since 2023, AFP reporters have witnessed the departure of several Bedouin communities of the West Bank under pressure from settler groups, including the community of Ras Ein al-Auja in early 2026.

“What is happening today is the complete collapse of the community as a result of the settlers’ continuous and repeated attacks,” Farhan Jahaleen, a Bedouin from the village, told AFP in January.

Amnesty’s Secretary General Agnes Callamard launched the report in Berlin, saying that Germany and other European countries had “enabled Israel’s policy of ethnic cleansing”.

She said that while targeted sanctions against individuals were



Amnesty International Secretary General Agnes Callamard. **(AFP)**

Agnes Callamard launched the report in Berlin, saying that Germany and other European countries had “enabled Israel’s policy of ethnic cleansing”

important symbolically, they have “no impact on the rate of settlement expansion” or on “the scale of settlers’ violence”.

“The EU in particular, must leverage its influence by expediting the long-overdue suspension of its association agreement with Israel,” Callamard told reporters.

Since Netanyahu’s government came to power in late 2022, it has approved the creation of 102 settlements in the West Bank, according to settlement watchdog Peace Now.

Excluding east Jerusalem, more than 500,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967, among some three million Palestinians.

All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law.

Some settlers have engaged in arson, vandalism and theft of private property in Palestinian communities, as well as physical assaults and sometimes murder, according to rights groups.

Bulgaria to end weapons supply to Ukraine

AFP
Sofia, Bulgaria

Bulgaria will no longer provide weapons from its army stocks to Ukraine, the prime minister of the Nato and EU member said yesterday, calling for “the pursuit of a diplomatic solution” to end the war.

While the country’s defence industry is set to remain one of the main suppliers of ammunition destined for Kyiv, Prime Minister Rumen Radev said the government was “putting an end to the provision of weapons from the Bulgarian army to Ukraine”.

“We have already given enough, while our country continues to suffer socio-economic damage from this bloody war,” he told the media before a cabinet meeting.

Radev, who has called for dialogue with Russia, which invaded Ukraine in 2022, and criticised military aid to Ukraine, took office in May after his party won a majority in parliamentary elections. He said yesterday that he was “convinced that a peaceful solution (to the Ukraine war) will not be achieved by military means”.

“That is why we once again call for a comprehensive and realistic approach to this war and for the pursuit of a diplomatic solution,” he added.

Bulgaria has supplied Ukraine with arms from Bulgarian army stocks, including air-defence and surface-to-air missiles, for which it was compensated through the EU’s European Peace Facility fund.

While several Bulgarian governments have emphasised their reluctance to deliver weapons directly to Ukraine, the country’s defence industry is one of the main suppliers of ammunition destined for Kyiv.

Bulgarian ammunition factories producing rounds for Soviet-era weapons used by the Ukrainian army have flourished since the start of the war, although their products are not sold directly to Ukraine but to EU countries, which then transfer them.

The centre-right GERB party headed by Boyko Borissov, a former prime minister, has criticised the plans to stop providing military aid to Ukraine, saying this was eroding “trust in Bulgaria as an ally”.

Trump signs bill to fund ICE, Border Patrol



US President Donald Trump signs a \$70 bn bill to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol through the remainder of his administration also known as the Secure America Act in the Oval Office yesterday. **(Reuters)**

Counter claims over victims as Pakistan strikes Afghanistan

Reuters
Kabul

Pakistani air strikes on three Afghan provinces — Khost, Kunar and Paktika — killed at least 13 people, including 11 children, yesterday, the Afghan Taliban government said, announcing the renewal of a conflict that has claimed hundreds of lives this year.

At least 14 others — all of them children and women — were injured in strikes that violated Afghanistan’s airspace and bombed civilian homes in the aforementioned provinces. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said.

While, Pakistan said that the “calibrated strikes” along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border killed 26 militants and that the strikes were a response to a recent spate of attacks in the country’s northwest.

“Based on credible intelligence, selective targeting of camps and hideouts was carried out with precision and accuracy,” Pakistan Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on X. “Four targets were completely destroyed, including a training centre, a hideout and an ammunition cache.”

Islamabad has blamed Kabul for harbouring militants that it says plot attacks in Pakistan. Militant attacks in Pakistan have risen fourfold since 2022, according to Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED), the year after the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan.

The Taliban has denied the al-



A Taliban personnel stands guard as people offer funeral prayers for Pakistani airstrike victims at Khost province yesterday. **(AFP)**

The two countries began engaging in dialogue to ease tensions in March, with China trying to mediate a settlement to the conflict. Since then, fighting has eased but sporadic clashes have continued along the 2,600-km border

legations and said militancy in Pakistan is an internal problem.

Renewed violence between the former allies threatens to disturb a long lull in fighting between Islamabad and Kabul, which fought their worst battle in years in February. The two countries began engaging in dialogue to

ease tensions in March, with China trying to mediate a settlement to the conflict. Since then, fighting has eased but sporadic clashes have continued along the 2,600-km border.

Haji Ali Khan, a tribal elder from Khost, said one of the air-strikes hit the home of a local shepherd after midnight, killing 10 people, including women and children, in a village in the province’s Spera district.

“The family whose house was bombed are local villagers. They have no connection with the TTP, nor do they even know them,” he said, referring to the Pakistani Taliban.

“People are demanding that the authorities either provide security for this area or, if they cannot do so, allow the people to defend themselves... Either we will all sacrifice ourselves, or we will take revenge by ourselves.”

Pentagon chief warns Cuba not to acquire weapons that threaten US

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth visited the US military base at Guantanamo Bay yesterday, warning the communist-led island of Cuba against acquiring weapons that could threaten the US.

Washington has ramped up pressure against the Cuba with sanctions and a crippling oil blockade, and President Donald Trump has repeatedly signaled that the Cuban government could be the next after Venezuela to fall to US pressure.

“It would be unwise for the government of Cuba to try to procure or get access to the types of weapons that could reach this base or the American homeland,” Hegseth said in remarks to US troops at the base.

“They would be inviting the kind of confrontation not only do they not want, but they could not stand,” said Hegseth, dressed in a green t-shirt and black shorts for physical fitness training with US forces.

“What happens with the future of Cuba is in the hands of... the president of the US and the leadership of Cuba,” he said.

US media outlet Axios reported last month that Cuba had obtained



US Defence Secretary meets with troops at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, yesterday. **(Reuters)**

more than 300 military drones and recently began discussing plans to use them to attack the Guantanamo base, US military vessels and possibly even Florida.

Cuba has been acquiring attack drones from Russia and Iran since 2023 and is seeking to buy more, US officials told Axios.

Havana slammed the report, with

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez accusing the US of baselessly plotting for its next war.

In addition to Guantanamo, Hegseth was also expected yesterday to be in Tampa, Florida, where US Central Command (CENTCOM) is headquartered. CENTCOM oversees US forces in the Middle East, including operations against Iran.

The trip to Guantanamo is the second by Hegseth as Pentagon chief, after another early last year, and is the latest in a series of visits to the island by top US officials.

Late last month, the top US general overseeing operations in Latin America visited Guantanamo, where he met with Cuban military leaders. The US military said at the time that the meeting by General Francis Donovan was “a brief exchange on operational security matters.”

“Gen. Donovan also led a perimeter security assessment of the naval base and discussed force protection, safety of service members and their families, and operational readiness with base officials,” US Southern Command added. **(AFP)**

Cepeda will accept election result, does not rule out protests

Colombian leftist presidential hopeful Ivan Cepeda told Reuters he will recognise the results of a runoff vote this month even if they do not favour him, but said he would call on supporters to peacefully protest if their rights are not upheld. Cepeda, a 63-year-old longtime senator and ally of President Gustavo Petro, will face right-wing lawyer Abelardo De La Esperiella in what is expected to be a challenging June 21 runoff. The

vote will pit two sharply different visions for Colombia’s future, with Cepeda pledging to deepen Petro’s social and economic reforms and pursue peace talks with armed groups, while De La Esperiella has campaigned on a security crackdown and more business-friendly policies. De La Esperiella beat Cepeda by some 670,000 votes in the first round, and though he did not secure the majority needed to avoid a runoff,

he is expected to draw support from other right-wing candidates now out of the race. “I am a democrat. Now, that does not exempt me from my responsibility to verify that the result is transparent,” Cepeda said on Tuesday evening. Cepeda took a week to acknowledge the first-round results, initially citing a discrepancy in the electoral register and atypical voting at some polling stations. **(Reuters)**

QSWF attends UN Disability Rights Conference COSP19

The Qatar Social Work Foundation (QSWF), represented by Shafallah Center for Persons with Disabilities and Al Noor Center for the Blind, participated in the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP19), held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The participation, with the delegation headed by Al Noor Center Director Mishal Abdullah al-Nuaimi, reflects the foundation's efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, support their active inclusion in society, and strengthen Qatar's presence in international forums focused on disability and social empowerment.

As part of the conference, the foundation, in co-operation with the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, organised a side event on redesigning transition pathways for persons with disabilities in the age of artificial intelligence. The event was held in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), and the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, bringing together experts and representatives of international and regional organizations. The discussions focused on addressing the gap between educational outcomes and meaningful employment opportunities, particularly for persons with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. Participants highlighted the need to move beyond traditional models that separate education, training, and employment toward integrated pathways that connect learning, practical experience, and economic participation. The event also explored how artificial intelligence and smart technologies can support the independence of persons with disabilities by personalizing learning methods, assisting workplace performance, simplifying complex tasks, expanding economic opportunities, and reducing reliance on direct support. Participants further discussed barriers to the transition from education to employment and ways to transform successful practices into sustainable and scalable national policies. On the sidelines of the conference, Al Noor Center and Shafallah Center took part in Civil Society Day activities. Al Noor Center emphasized the importance of building more resilient

communities through comprehensive and sustainable support systems that enhance independence and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. The centre also highlighted the importance of shifting from institutional care models to person-centered community-based approaches that promote dignity, independence, and freedom of choice, while providing integrated support services, including early intervention, rehabilitation, independent living, inclusive education, mental health services, assistive technologies, and social and economic participation opportunities. Al Noor Center stressed the need for greater investment in accessible and sustainable community services, as well as support for families, caregivers, and professionals through training, capacity building, and adequate resources, while safeguarding the right of persons with disabilities to make decisions regarding their own lives and services under the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us". The centre also showcased its experience in empowerment, rehabilitation, training, and accessibility services, highlighting the impact of these efforts on strengthening independence and community participation. Meanwhile, Shafallah Center stressed that the challenge today is not simply providing more services, but ensuring they are integrated and coordinated in a way



that enables persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in society. The centre emphasized that the success of support systems should be measured not by the number of services delivered, but by their ability to empower persons with disabilities to make their own decisions, develop their skills, and access education, employment, and community participation on an equal basis with others. The participation reflects the QSWF ongoing efforts and its specialized centers to advance the rights, empowerment, and independence of persons with disabilities. It also demonstrates Qatar's commitment to contributing to international efforts aimed at building more inclusive and sustainable societies. The participation further falls within the Foundation's consultative role with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), enhancing its international engagement and supporting the exchange of expertise and best practices related to disability rights and inclusion.

Year of Culture opens window to football's defining moments

Objects of Glory: Iconic Moments in the History of Football flagged off at Museo Jumex in Mexico City as part of the Qatar-Canada-Mexico 2026 Year of Culture

QNA
Mexico City

Some of the most iconic objects in the history of world football are now on view in Mexico City as Objects of Glory: Iconic Moments in the History of Football opens at Museo Jumex as part of the Qatar-Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture.

The opening was attended by Qatar's ambassador to Mexico Mohammed Sultan al-Kuwari, the ambassadors of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Norway, charge d'affairs of Morocco and the director-general for Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East at Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Relations, along with Eugenio Lopez, President of Fundacion Jumex.

Organised in partnership with Qatar Museums, the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum and Museo Jumex, the exhibition runs from June 10 until August 30 2026, bringing together 16 extraordinary objects that trace football's transformation into the world's most influential sporting and cultural phenomenon.

At the heart of the exhibition is one of the most celebrated artefacts in football history: the match-worn jersey worn by Diego Maradona during Argentina's legendary 1986 FIFA World Cup quarter-final against England at Mexico City's Estadio Azteca. Displayed alongside rare historic match balls, iconic jerseys, legendary boots, trophies, artworks and personal memorabilia, the exhibition offers visitors a journey through more than 130 years of football history.

3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum Director Abdullah al-Mulla said: "The objects in this exhibition witnessed the moments that changed football history. Through them, we can see how a game became a global cultural phenomenon that continues to inspire people across generations and continents."

"We are proud to bring these stories to Mexico in partnership with Museo Jumex, a country that has played such an important role in football's journey."

Curated by Sheikhha Najla al-Thani, Curator at the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, Objects of Glory explores how football's defining moments have been pre-



served through the objects that witnessed them, revealing the sport's enduring connections to identity, memory and collective emotion.

"We are very pleased to collaborate with the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum and Qatar Museums on Objects of Glory. This partnership allows us to bring an exceptional selection of iconic objects that have shaped the history of football to Mexican audiences, while continuing to expand the ways in which Museo Jumex engages diverse public through meaningful cultural experiences," said Eugenio Lopez, President of Fundacion Jumex.

Commenting on the opening, curator Sheikhha Najla Al-Thani said, "What interested me as a curator was not simply collecting famous objects, but exploring why certain objects become iconic. This exhibition examines how a shirt, a trophy or a match ball can come to represent a nation, a generation or a defining moment in sporting history."

Among the highlights are objects connected to some of the most influential figures in football history, including Pele, Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi, David Beck-

ham and Kylian Mbatpe. Together, these artefacts illustrate how football has evolved into a cultural force capable of transcending borders, generations and languages.

The exhibition also highlights football's role in expanding access and representation through the story of Honey Thaljieh, the former captain of the Palestinian women's national team and the only female athlete represented in the exhibition. Her inclusion reflects football's power to challenge barriers and create opportunities for participation and visibility around the world.

Opening as Mexico prepares to host matches during FIFA World Cup 2026, Objects of Glory forms part of a broader programme of cultural exchange under the Qatar Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, a year-long initiative that builds lasting connections between communities through art, heritage, sport, education and innovation.

The exhibition reflects the shared passion for football that unites Qatar, Canada and Mexico as FIFA World Cup host nations, while offering visitors an opportunity to encounter some of the objects that helped shape the history of the beautiful game.

WEEKEND PRICE



44 QR.00

لحم ضاني هندي ١ كجم
Indian Mutton 1 kg



39 QR.00

لحم بقري جنوب أفريقي، قطعة علوية، ١ كجم
South African Beef Topside 1 kg



28 QR.75

لحم بقري بالعظم باكستاني ١ كجم
Pakistan beef with bone 1 kg



43 QR.50

سلمون نرويجي ١ كجم
Fresh Salmon Norway 1 kg



31 QR.50

سمك دنيس عمان ١ كجم
Fresh Sea Bream Oman 1 kg



19 QR.75

جمبري اماراتي وسط ١ كجم
Prawns Medium UAE 1 kg



25 QR.00

سمك فاروس (باراموندي) السعودية ١ كجم
Fresh Sea Bass (Barramundi) KSA 1 kg



4 QR.00

شمام الاردن ١ كجم
Sweet Melon Jordan 1 kg



2 QR.50

بطيخ الاردن ١ كجم
Watermelon Jordan 1 kgt



3 QR.50

برتقال فالنسيا مصري ١ كجم
Orange Valencia Egypt 1 kg



10 QR.75

عنب اسود مصري ١ كجم
Grape Black Egypt 1 kg



12 QR.75

كرز لبنان ٤٠٠ جم ١ عبوة
Cherry Lebanon (Approximate 400g) 1 pkt



8 QR.00

برقوق احمر مصري ٨٠٠ جم ١ عبوة
Plum Red Egypt (Approximate 800g) 1 box



6 QR.25

لونجان فيتنام ٥٠٠ جم ١ حبة
Longan Vietnam (approx 500 gm) 1 pkt



23 QR.50

البادية طليب كامل الدسم ١ لتر ٤ حبة
Al Badia Full Cream Milk 1 Ltr x 4 pcs



13 QR.50

صن فلو زيت دوار الشمس ١.٥ لتر ١ حبة
Sunflow Sunflower Oil 1.5 Ltr x 1 pc



20 QR.75

روزانا ارز بسمتي ٥ كجم ١ حبة
Rozana Basmati Rice 5 kg x 1 pc



14 QR.00

ساديا دجاج شواية ١١٠٠ جم ١ حبة
Sadia Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc

SHOP & DRIVE WIN 30

SPEND QR.50 & GET AN E-RAFFLE COUPON TO WIN BESTUNE CARS

5th Lucky Draw on: 21-06-2026 at Safari Hypermarket, Birkath Al Awamer (4 Winners)

WIN 4 CARS IN EVERY LUCKY DRAW

Promotion Valid Till: 12-09-2026

SAFARI MALL
Abu Hamour
Tel: +974 441 91 441

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Salwa Road
Tel: +974 400 01 004

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Al Khor
Tel: +974 400 01 050

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Barwa Village
Tel: +974 441 18 704

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Industrial Area
Tel: +974 446 89 058

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Birkat Al Awamer
Tel: +974 441 88 699

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Exdan Mall, Al Gharaffa
Tel: +974 414 74 844

www.facebook.com/safarihypermarket

www.instagram.com/safarimallqatar